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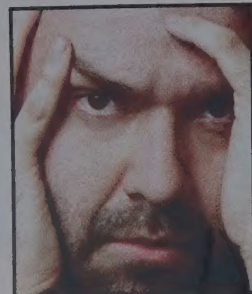
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PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

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Persepolis, at The Princess

MARCH 2

**music** | **CRYSTAL CASTLES** Toronto's Crystal Castles take the hipster '80s aesthetic to a dissonant, fucked-up extreme with their sexy, synth sounds. (They're even named after either an Atari game or the crystal castles in *She-Ra*. Or both.)

MARCH 3

**democracy** | **ELECTION** If you don't vote, you can still complain—but why should anyone listen?

MARCH 4

**theatre** | **3 DIFFERENT HEAVENS** Nathan Cuckow, star of *Monster* (SEE's 2007 play of the year), takes up the pen himself for this Northern Light Theatre production. At The Third Space.

MARCH 5

**film** | **REEL WORLD** The *Blood of Yingzhou* District documents a year in the life of children in China's Anhui province. At the U of A Civil Engineering Building.

MARCH 6

**dance** | **EXPANSE MOVEMENT ARTS FESTIVAL** Azimuth Theatre presents a smorgasbord of Alberta dance and physical theatre talent, including Annie Dugan, Tanya Lukin-Linklater, The Cam Boyce Project, and way more. Catalyst Theatre, from the 6th to the 9th.

MARCH 7

**theatre** | **THE DECEMBER MAN** Playwright Colleen Murphy's heart-wrenching drama about one family's struggle in the aftermath of Montreal's École Polytechnique shooting in December 1989. At the Citadel.

MARCH 8

**film** | **BEST OF OTTAWA ANIMATION FESTIVAL '07** Choice cuts from the renowned animation showcase (the largest in North America). At Metro Cinema.

MARCH 9

**art** | **SMALL** Is it just us, or is everything getting smaller? Cellphones, cars... and have you seen those new IMacs? They're practically invisible! Until March 24, The Art Gallery of Alberta explores whether the tinyfication of everything is mucking up our perspective.

MARCH 10

**music** | **YOAV** From Cape Town... No, wait, from London! No, wait, from New York! Ah, it doesn't matter. Yoav's genre-bending, percussive acoustic guitar workouts are hip-hop meets trance meets singer/songwriter. And he's damn good. At the Velvet Underground.

MARCH 11

**architecture** | **EXPLORING MEANINGFUL ARCHITECTURE** Dutch architect Ernst von Meijenfildt (now that's a name for an architect!) presents the space and places that matter to him. MacEwan Campus, CN Conference Theatre.

MARCH 12

**music** | **STEVE EARLE** Screw trigger-happy country stars; the two best country songs about guns are "Don't Take Your Guns to Town" by Johnny Cash and "The Devil's Right Hand" by Steve Earle. Maybe Earle'll play both when he and wife Allison Moorer visit the Jube.

MARCH 13

**art** | **BUSINESS AS USUAL** Politics and art collide at Harcourt House in Lynn Richardson's exhibit examining the Canadian north, climate change, and free trade.



Yoav, Velvet Underground, Mar 10

Calendar | MAR 12



SCREW TRIGGER-HAPPY COUNTRY STARS; THE TWO BEST COUNTRY SONGS ABOUT GUNS ARE 'DON'T TAKE YOUR GUNS TO TOWN' BY JOHNNY CASH AND 'THE DEVIL'S RIGHT HAND' BY STEVE EARLE."

see magazine's two week forecast of events in edmonton

listings: news pg 15 | city life pg 10 | music pg 25 | movies pg 35 | arts pg 31

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NEWS • PROFILE • BY JEREMY KLASZUS | 2/18/08

## Ed Stelmach: The Forgotten Years

**THE TORY LEADER WAS AN “ORIGINAL SOLDIER” IN RALPH KLEIN’S BUDGET-SLASHING REVOLUTION**

In October 2005, a *Calgary Herald* columnist wrote a profile on Ed Stelmach—an earnest, unassuming rural cabinet minister who’d been eyeing up the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party. Tom Olsen described a farmer from Andrew, Alberta, who in 1993 supported then-premier Ralph Klein’s idea that “the state should be one of society’s minor players.” Inspired by Klein, the rookie MLA “signed on as an original soldier in what was known as the Klein Revolution, and now wants to lead the evolution of the revolution.”

Fast-forward two and a half years. These days, neither Stelmach nor Olsen mention Klein very often. (Olsen is now Stelmach’s press secretary; he jumped to the premier’s office last January mere days after filing his last column at the *Herald*.) The cuts of the ‘90s alienated many Albertans, and Klein left Alberta with a massive infrastructure deficit and his now-infamous admission that his government had no plan to deal with the province’s growth. Klein’s “no plan” admission continues to haunt Stelmach this election campaign.

Stelmach, who was in Klein’s caucus for 13 years, now portrays himself as a new leader with fresh ideas—an alternative to the Klein reign. Stelmach, however, was an integral part of Klein’s team—not just as a backbench MLA, but as a cabinet minister for nine years. University of Lethbridge political scientist Peter McCormick says that’s something many Albertans don’t remember. “If they did, he’d get hit a lot harder on all this infrastructure stuff,” says McCormick. “He was the minister responsible for infrastructure for several years.... And now he’s saying, ‘Hey, we need a plan to take care of infrastructure.’ Well, yeah—who was in charge of that, Ed? Whose watch was that?”

A politician’s record is usually brought into public view and discussed, debated and often criticized in election campaigns. Yet in this campaign, there’s been very little talk about Stelmach’s pre-leadership years. Because he kept such a low profile, few remember his role in Klein’s government. “If we were dealing today with a Lyle Oberg or a Jim Dinning—both of whom were very outspoken when they were in government and held very high-pro-



ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BAGLEY

file positions—[you could] say, ‘Look, the decisions that this government’s made—you’re directly implicated in [them] and here’s your statements supporting them,’” says Ricardo Acuña, executive director of the Parkland Institute. “With Ed Stelmach, that’s a little harder.”

### THE DEEP SIX YEARS

In the weeks preceding the 2008 election campaign, Stelmach’s government went on a wild spending spree, announcing more than \$1.2 billion for schools, non-profits and care centres. Opposition parties and government watchdogs like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) harshly criticized Stelmach for his barrage of pre-election announcements. “Politicians of all stripes tend to pork-barrel right before an election, but this dollar amount is unprecedented in Alberta,” said CTF-Alberta director Scott Hennig at the time.

However, when Stelmach bumped an NDP incumbent from Vegreville-Viking in 1993, he approached government spending very differently. He was one of the “Deep Six”—an irreverent band of rookie Tory backbenchers who wore goofy teal-coloured bowties, mocked legislative seriousness, and pushed for hard-line fiscal conservatism in their party. The Deep Six—so named because

of their physical distance from Klein and his cabinet in the legislature—loudly derided big spenders in all parties as Klein laid out his agenda to deeply cut the provincial budget. “Ed was cheering it on,” says Liberal leader Kevin Taft. “If anything, he wanted the cuts deeper and faster, and we’ve been really picking up the pieces ever since.”

Stelmach’s fiscal and social conservatism quickly became evident. He thumped loudly on his desk when Red Deer Tory MLA Victor Doerksen suggested the government should axe the Advisory Council on Women’s Issues so the money could be put towards the debt. “[Stelmach’s] seatmate, Calgary-Cross MLA Yvonne Fritz, threw a punch at him, but missed,” reported the *Edmonton Journal* afterwards. In February 1995, Stelmach was one of 12 Tory MLAs who voted against a successful Liberal motion to recognize Freedom to Read Week in the province.

The Conservatives continued their cuts through the mid-‘90s. The government closed hospitals and schools, and laid off teachers and nurses. The Conservatives also cut welfare and slashed living allowances for people with disabilities. In the midst of these cuts, Klein made Stelmach the caucus deputy whip, and in 1995, Stelmach became cau-

cus whip. (The whip oversees party discipline and keeps other MLAs in line.) During this time, Stelmach solidified his reputation as a frugal MLA: he routinely incurred lower personal expenses than most of his colleagues and declined to drive a government vehicle.

In April 1996, Stelmach got tangled in a Tory controversy shortly before a by-election in a riding north of Edmonton. (Liberal MLA Nick Taylor had retired from the Redwater riding because he’d been appointed as a federal senator.) Several days before the by-election was called, Stelmach, then-Tory MLA Peter Trynchy, and the Conservative candidate in the riding presented a \$125,000 government cheque to a local seniors centre. The group had reportedly applied for the government money more than two years prior. A local weekly newspaper snapped a photo of Stelmach and the other two Tories handing over the cheque, and once opposition parties got their hands on the photo, they accused the Conservatives of pork-barrel politics and vote-buying in the riding.

In the legislature, Stelmach said the seniors centre had approached him about their application because it stalled after Taylor was appointed to the Senate. “Speaking about patronage, the only reason that the seniors were unable to obtain the grant

when they first applied was because of patronage,” said Stelmach. “The MLA for the constituency was appointed senator, and that left the seniors without anybody to discuss the proposed project.” Klein also maintained the timing of the announcement had nothing to do with the by-election. After more opposition hounding, however, Klein eventually admitted the cheque shouldn’t have been presented right before the by-election. “It was a mistake,” said Klein. “It won’t happen again.” The Conservatives lost the by-election to the Liberals by 98 votes.

### THE AGRICULTURE YEARS

Stelmach has kept an incredibly low profile for most of his political life. (Stelmach’s name appeared in *Edmonton Journal* headlines only four times during his first decade in office.) “He never really took on anything that brought him into public notice,” says Mark Lisac, who covered the legislature for the *Journal* in the ‘90s. “He never did anything that was flashy or controversial in any way.”

After the March 1997 election (in which the Tories won 63 of 83 seats), Klein made Stelmach his minister of agriculture—clearly a suitable portfolio for Stelmach, a farmer with extensive knowledge and experience in the field. Under Stelmach’s leadership, the agriculture department aggressively promoted industrial-scale livestock projects in Alberta. However, there were few rules in place to regulate these operations, and concerns about water contamination quickly piled up as farm development intensified. At first, Stelmach resisted opposition calls to regulate factory farms, saying he didn’t want to impose a “cookie-cutter solution” on all areas of the province. Instead, he encouraged municipalities and counties to make their own bylaws.

However, Stelmach was forced to abandon this position in the face of mounting public pressure and evidence from his own department that factory farms were polluting water. He called for a public debate on ways to regulate intensive livestock operations. (In 2002, the province took regulatory authority of the industry from municipalities and brought in province-wide standards.)

As agriculture minister, Stelmach also vocally supported the Alberta government’s fight against the Canadian Wheat Board. “It’s the farmers’ grain,” Stelmach told the *Journal* in September 1997. “Not the provincial



or federal government's."

Meanwhile, the Tory budget cuts forced the closure of three hospitals in Calgary.

## THE INFRASTRUCTURE YEARS

In 1999, Klein gave Stelmach a new cabinet post: infrastructure. Again he went about his business quietly, for the most part staying below the media radar.

At a recent campaign stop in Calgary, I asked Stelmach to identify his biggest accomplishments during his cabinet years. "When I first started in infrastructure, we would get a large amount of money in the beginning of the year, and as other ministries were overspending, they'd always come at the end of the year to infrastructure and pull funds out of our department," Stelmach said. "So we changed the financial mechanism in such a way as to set aside a capital fund." The new fund was frozen, he says, and designated specifically for capital projects. "That, to me, was the biggest accomplishment which allowed us to then take on the huge task of building the infrastructure that Albertans deserve."

However, critics say Stelmach's years as infrastructure minister were

notable not for what he did, but what he didn't do. "As minister of infrastructure, he let this \$7 billion infrastructure deficit be built by the government," says Acuña. "[He] didn't present any kind of long-term plan for infrastructure in the province."

McCormick says if Stelmach had been in the media more at the time, his role in the current infrastructure shortfall would be more of an election issue now. "We'd remember it, and we'd pull the clips out, and we'd play them on the news and laugh," says McCormick. "But he was never that style. In a way, he's getting away with a bit—except that we all know it was so much a one-man show. [As a Klein cabinet minister], you got about as much space as [Klein] gave you to play with."

Lisac, who currently writes a newsletter on Alberta politics, says "not a thing" stands out to him about Stelmach's years in cabinet. "He just avoids any kind of prominence or any kind of risk-taking," he says, recalling when Stelmach was infrastructure minister. "That was a period of time when Alberta was starting to fall behind. I don't recall a single word from him saying that maybe it was time to catch up on some of

these jobs."

## THE TRANSPORTATION YEARS

In 2001, Klein moved Stelmach to the transportation portfolio, a position he held until 2004. He continued to focus on traffic safety, introducing a graduated licensing system for new drivers, and, in 2004, launching a provincial review of Alberta traffic safety programs.

With both Calgary and Edmonton calling for ring roads around their cities, Stelmach started advocating for P3s—public-private partnerships—to build the expensive projects, since the province didn't have the money. "It would be something like mortgaging the infrastructure," Stelmach told the *Journal* in 2002—a change from "the previous way of building and paying for it in the same year."

Numerous studies and reports show P3s often end up costing taxpayers more than when governments simply borrow money, but Stelmach is still pursuing P3s not just for roads, but schools as well. In fact, some of the schools pulled from Stelmach's pre-election goody bag will be P3s. "[Stelmach] still defends P3s for infrastructure as saving taxpayers' money, but he never once

has provided a shred of evidence... to show that that's the case," says Acuña.

## THE DEEP SIX IS DEAD

Finally, after the 2004 election (another solid Tory majority), Klein made Stelmach Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations—the last portfolio Stelmach would hold under the former premier. Stelmach headed the department when the province hosted the Queen and celebrated Alberta's centennial.

He was also in charge when the government established its controversial Washington office, where an Alberta envoy earns a \$200,000-plus yearly salary. Stelmach signed the contract for the first Washington envoy, fellow Deep Sixer Murray Smith, who got the salary plus a \$105,000 departure bonus even though he resigned from the job five months before his three-year term ended. (Longtime Klein cabinet minister Gary Mar was appointed to replace him last September.)

After Smith's appointment, opposition parties and columnists decried the Washington office as a patronage position. Even Olsen, who now works

for Stelmach, described Smith's appointment as a "grip, grin, and gravy tour" in a 2005 column.

The Deep Six, Olsen noted, had "slowly started to resemble the fatcats they had abhorred early in their political careers." Smith was living the high life in Washington, former environment minister Lorne Taylor wanted to reinstate the MLA pensions that were axed in the '90s, and two Deep Sixers—Stelmach and Lyle Oberg—were now in the running for the province's top job. "The Deep Six is well and truly dead," wrote Olsen.

In March 2006, Stelmach resigned his cabinet post to enter the leadership race, ending nine years in Klein's cabinet. Stelmach's role during the previous decade wouldn't stick in the public memory, when he won the leadership race in December, many Albertans still didn't know who he was. "Ed who?" was the question on many local lips.

"He's not, in the public eye, directly associated with the [Klein] government," Acuña says. "The reality is that he was part of the Klein government, he *did* have a seat in that caucus, and he *did* have a seat in that cabinet—and therefore the decisions of that government were partly his."

NEWS • STREETERS • BY ANDREW PAUL (839 words)

# What Do Albertans Know?

## ELECTION PROMISES AND ALBERTA HISTORY ELUDE EDMONTONIANS

In the weeks leading up to the provincial election, *SEE Magazine* quizzed 10 Edmontonians on election promises and other trivia, and we're beginning to think we were way too hard on voters. Although everyone we spoke to said they were likely to vote on March 3, only a handful could answer even one question correctly. What Ed Stelmach did before entering politics received the most correct answers. No one knew how many MLAs Edmonton elects, and only two knew the year by which the Tories promise to have eliminated healthcare premiums.

Think you can do any better? Don't peek at the answers and see how well you do.

	1. How many political parties does Alberta currently have?	2. How many times has the ruling party changed in Alberta?	3. How many MLAs does Edmonton elect?	4. How much money is in the Heritage Fund?	5. How much money was in the Heritage Fund in 1990?	6. By what date have the Tories promised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 200 megatonnes?	7. When do the Tories plan to eliminate healthcare premiums?	8. What portfolio did Ed Stelmach hold before becoming premier?	9. What did Ed Stelmach do before entering politics?	10. Kevin Taft has promised to create a post-secondary endowment fund. By what year will the fund reach \$15 billion?
Dave, NAIT student, 23, Undecided	Five.	Three or four.	10.	No fucking idea, no idea.	No idea.	2011.	2010.	I cannot remember.	Pig farmer?	Seven years.
Courtney, Health safety environmental assistant, 21, Liberal	Seven.	Three works.	Sixteen.	\$1.5 million.	The same. \$1.5 million.	2009.	Never.	Not sure.	A lawyer.	Four years.
Jordan, Pilot, 29, Conservative	Five, I think.	Not sure.	No, I'm not sure.	No, I don't know.	Don't even know.	2020.	Don't know.	Don't know.	I don't know.	Don't know.
Rob, Home builder, 35, Undecided	Four.	Not too sure.	Fifty-four.	\$12 million.	No idea—I didn't live here.	2009 or 2012	Probably never with them.	Not exactly sure.	He must have been a used car salesman.	I'm not 100 per cent sure. 2010?
Dave, Radio announcer, 22, Undecided	Four.	Twice.	Eighteen.	\$5 billion.	I don't believe any.	No idea.	In two years, so like 2010.	I think something to do with agriculture.	I have no clue.	Not a clue.
Steven, Bookstore clerk, Undecided	Technically four since the Greens never get seats	I think it's four.	I'm not actually sure.	\$1 billion.	Not sure.	2012.	With in five years.	Agriculture.	Probably lawyer.	2015.
Bob, Self-employed salesman, 51, Conservative	Three main parties.	Three times.	Ten.	\$12–\$14 billion.	\$10 billion.	2012.	Isn't it immediately?	Agriculture.	Businessman.	I don't know.
Neil, Truck driver, 46, Conservative or Wild Rose	Five or six.	I'll hazard a guess of four times.	NA	Billions.	Hundreds of millions.	In 20 years.	Either right away or in the next two years.	Probably agriculture, I think.	A farmer.	Five to ten years I think.
Bruce, Music student, 20, Undecided	Six or seven.	Wouldn't know really. A few times maybe.	Six MLAs from Edmonton, I think.	Not sure.	No, I'm not sure.	2020.	2012, like in four years.	I forget.	A farmer.	I don't know.
William, Retail supervisor, 32, Undecided	Five.	Roughly nine.	I don't know the updated number.	I would guess \$9–10 billion.	Not sure.	2050.	I think a year and a half or two years.	Not sure, agriculture maybe.	Can't remember. A farmer?	Not sure.
<b>ANSWERS</b>	<b>Nine</b>	<b>Three</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$16.1 billion</b>	<b>\$12.7 billion</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Intergovernmental affairs</b>	<b>Farmer</b>	<b>2021</b>



# All The Raj

**ON THE EVE OF RAJ PANNU'S RETIREMENT FROM THE LEGISLATURE, WE ASSESS THE FORMER NDP LEADER'S POLITICAL LEGACY**

When Raj Pannu looks back at over 10 years as an MLA in Alberta's legislature, his most vivid memories involve the fight against healthcare privatization.

He remembers the thousands of people who gathered outside the Legislature building every night, holding candlelit vigils in defence of public healthcare.

Every hour or so, he would leave the Legislature and join the crowds. He remembers feeling a sense of awe, both at the people who were standing up to the government to protect a public institution and at the thought that he was at the heart of the debate during such a historic time for Alberta.

There were many moments like that one during his time as MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona and leader of the NDP.

"He was a vocal and courageous critic who never shied away from important issues," says David Taras, politics and communication professor at the University of Calgary. Pannu also kept the NDP on the map at a time when Ralph Klein's Progressive Conservatives dominated the province.

Politics was a second career for Pannu, who for 27 years taught sociology and education at the University of Alberta. The 75-year-old has decided not to seek re-election, and come March 3, will once again be a civilian.

NDP members recognize him for rebuilding the party after the defeat

in 1993 of all 16 NDP MLAs. But whether that internal growth will continue in Pannu's absence is very uncertain, and ultimately has little to do with Pannu's legacy, says Taras.

## The Rise Of Raj

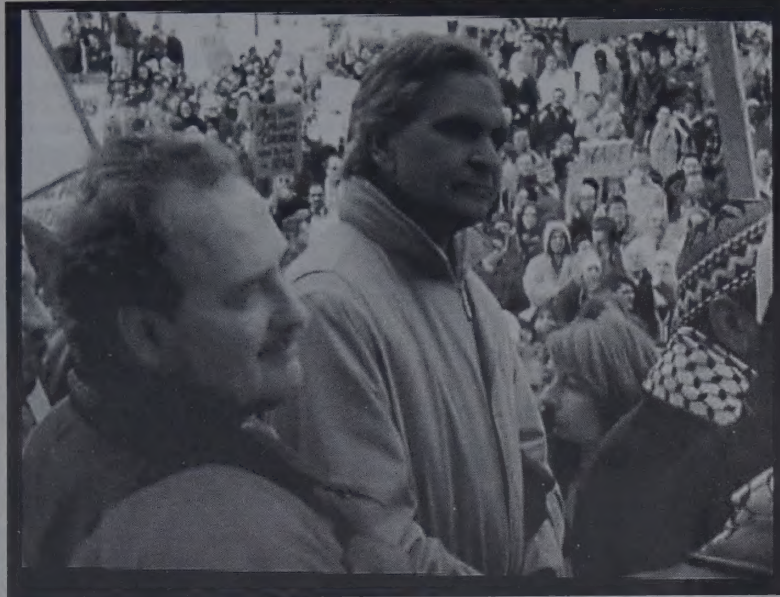
Although Pannu came to politics late in life, as a child in India during the de-colonization struggle, his father Ajit Singh Pannu impressed on him the importance of political engagement.

"As little kids, we used to lurk around these sessions that he had," Pannu says. "He used to host all kinds of politicians at our home. My dad was very intellectually engaged and he used to challenge them in terms of theory and practice. And, without being able to understand everything, I found the debates very stimulating."

Pannu was a political activist in his university years, pushing for social services and public institutions. He moved to Whitecourt, Alberta with his wife Swinder in 1962, to take on a job as a high school teacher. Tommy Douglas, the Saskatchewan premier and champion of public healthcare, had just moved from provincial to federal politics when Pannu arrived. The doctor strikes against public healthcare erupted around that time and Pannu watched events in Saskatchewan very closely.

"I was very impressed with the NDP here in western Canada," he says. "You couldn't avoid being captivated by the political challenge the NDP was facing and the goals it had set for themselves."

After a few years in Whitecourt, he moved to Edmonton for graduate studies at the University of Alberta, and taught there for 27 years. By the



**Raj-ing Protest** | Raj Pannu retires after over a decade in provincial politics. PHOTO SUPPLIED

time Pannu retired from the university, the Klein revolution had swept through Alberta. After studying neoliberal trade practices and the economic policies of Margaret Thatcher in England and Ronald Reagan in the United States, Pannu knew that under the Klein government, regular Albertans were headed for bad times.

He decided to run for the NDP in Edmonton-Strathcona. Swinder was a little uneasy about the idea, as she wasn't sure he'd win. Nor were the NDP.

Rachel Notley, who has replaced Pannu as the NDP candidate in Edmonton-Strathcona, worked as a volunteer on Pannu's first run in 1997. She remembers how calm Pannu was on election night. "It was back and forth all night long," she recalls. "At one point, we had all the results except one in, and I think he was five or six votes behind at that point. It was really tight.... I grew up in politics, and my dad went through this process, but he never watched the results in front of 20 people. But Raj did, and he was calm and kept this smile on his face."

Pannu won the Edmonton-Strathcona seat by 37 votes. He was the first South Asian ever elected to the Alberta legislature and, along with party leader Pam Barrett, was one of only two NDP candidates to win a seat that year.

## Raj In Charge

For the next three years, Pannu and Barrett were the only NDP MLAs in the legislature. (At the dissolution of the last Alberta legislature, there were only four NDP MLAs.)

"We always felt overwhelmed and inundated with the amount of work we had to do," Pannu says. "Not having enough members in our caucus has always been a huge challenge. I've always felt that our interven-

tions in the house could have been far more effective.... We simply could not analyze every issue in detail that it deserved."

But his ability to take a step back and analyze the situation as an academic helped him immensely. He kept a diary in his pocket and on his bedside table, often scribbling down notes on sleepless nights.

He remembers the fall of 1999 as particularly tense time. In March, while Pannu was asking a question in the house during a debate, Conservative MLA Ivan Strang shouted at him to "go back to India." At the scrum after the incident, reporters asked if he was going to press charges, but Pannu felt Strang had acted "honourably" in apologizing, and dropped the issue. But it's not an incident Pannu likes to dwell on, nor does he think of it as his biggest challenge.

Barrett resigned in 2000 and as the only NDP MLA remaining, Pannu ended up leading the party for the next four years.

"I think he had planned his career as a dutiful lieutenant MLA, with Pam as the leader," says Notley. "I think he was thrust into a position that he hadn't necessarily chosen." Still, Pannu took on the job, and worked the corridors of the legislature as best he could.

Despite his natural earnestness, he kept a sense of humour.

"He's always willing to go along with the fun," says Sandra Houston, provincial secretary for the NDP. "Given his age, given that he didn't grow up here, sometimes there's a bit of a pop-culture gap, and yet he was always willing to go along with some kind of joke or skit that was being done at the legislature." (For instance, he once took part in a video that showed him and Brian Mason arm wrestling over who would not be leader.)

Indeed, he trusted his staff implic-

itly. During the 2001 campaign, his staff had come up with the slogan "Raj Against the Machine." Pannu had never heard of the band Rage Against the Machine, so NDP staffer John Kolkman brought in a CD. Pannu listened to it, and quipped that he preferred Mozart or Beethoven. Nevertheless, he went along with the slogan, winning by more than 2,000 votes that election.

## Raj In Winter

Pannu won't comment on what he sees as his legacy to either Alberta or the NDP. However, he did say he was thinking about doing some writing about his time in provincial politics.

For their part, NDPers give him credit for rebuilding the party. "When we lost in 1993, it was very difficult for a lot of people in the party," says Notley. "When Raj came in, I don't know ultimately if he was positioned to expand our base, [but] I think he brought a lot of people back to the party who might have been tired, who might have been burnt out and cynical because he just was none of those things."

Pannu kept the NDP on the map for the last decade, but that doesn't mean that growth will continue, says Taras, adding that the NDP is caught ideologically between the Liberals and the Green Party. "The pincer movement could take them out eventually," he says. "And that will have nothing to do with the quality of the people in the NDP; it's just that they are caught in larger events."

Although the most important statistics for any provincial political party are level of popular support and the number of seats they occupy in the legislature, Notley notes that you need to create an internally healthy party first. And Pannu performed that function admirably. "He made us all happy to be New Democrats again."

**SEE a latte MOVIES Every Friday**

**FREE STUFF**

Come to Second Cup on Jasper Ave (10309 Jasper Ave) between 2 and 2:15 pm on Friday. Find the SEE Magazine rep and give them the answer or appropriate response to the question or task below. You may not win if you have won a prize from SEE Magazine in the last 30 days. SEE Magazine reserves the right to restrict prizes. Prizes must be claimed in person by the contest entrant. Photo ID may be required.

**Prize:** A double-guest pass to see *City of Men, I'm Not There* or *There Will Be Blood* at the Princess.

**Skill-testing Question:** What is the Portuguese title of *City of Men*?

**Prize:** A double-guest pass to see *Juno* at the Garneau.

**Skill-testing Question:** Mark and Juno play and sing what song together?

**Prize:** A pair of tickets to see *Skid Row* in concert February 29 at the Edmonton Event Centre.

**Skill-testing Question:** What year did Sebastian Bach join Skid Row?



## “ALBERTANS DON'T WANT A GOVERNMENT-PLANNED ECONOMY.”

—Ed Stelmach, just before comparing Alberta Liberal leader Kevin Taft to Pierre Trudeau, as quoted in the *Edmonton Journal*



# WITNESS

FEBRUARY 25, 2008 | 6:07 PM | EDMONTON-GOLDBAR | PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

Marcus Coldeway (foreground) and Alistair King of The Vote Project go door-knocking to spread awareness about the upcoming provincial election

### OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

#### ALBERTA • ELECTION WHERE'S THE PASSION?

The problem with leaders' debates is that they usually don't involve leaders.

Instead, these events tend more often to be battles between the highly constructed images of three or four well-trained professional politicians. Every moment in last Thursday's debate was choreographed beforehand. Somebody told Stelmach what to say when Brian Mason and Kevin Taft started fighting. Someone told Taft to speak slowly and without much emotion. And the result is that voters don't get to see anyone who cares about them.

Mason should have talked about his policies instead of attacking Taft and Stelmach. And if Taft has the right plan, why isn't he excited about it?

Leadership demands passion and energy. If you want to be premier, you should have the confidence to go off script. Staying on message shouldn't earn you brownie points from pundits the next morning.

#### ALBERTA • ELECTION PRESS RELEASE WAR

On Monday, February 25, the Tories issued a press release accusing the Liberals of sending Alberta oilsands-related jobs elsewhere as a result of their absolute emissions caps.

But as the responding Liberal release stated, the National Energy Board approved an oil pipeline to Wisconsin on Friday, February 22. Apparently the Tories don't work weekends.

The sniping added a little bit of excitement to the news cycle, but it was really beside the point. As deputy Green Party leader Peter Johnston says, the shipping of oil and jobs to other jurisdictions is troubling, but the environmental impact of oil production is mind-boggling.

"Before any more development goes on," he says, "we have to ensure that it's being done properly and that its full costs are being factored in. If those factors cannot be met, then we won't go ahead and do it. That's the bottom line."

#### CALGARY • CIVIL LIBERTIES NO MORE SCANNING

In a victory for civil liberties, privacy commissioner Frank Work ordered a Calgary bar to stop scanning patrons' IDs last week. Penny Lane Entertainment must also destroy all the data they have collected through their controversial SecureClub ID program.

Work was (rightly) unconvinced by arguments that the collection of personal data was necessary to protect bar patrons.

The scare tactic has been especially effective here in Edmonton, where late-night violence on Whyte Avenue has both city officials and bar owners looking for easy answers.

Although scanning licenses has always been defended as a security measure, there's no real evidence that the practice made participating bars any safer.

As Civil Liberties Association president Stephen Jenuth says, "Far too often in this society we give up our privacy for no good reason and we do it without a fight."

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### VOTER TURNOUT IN ALBERTA PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

\* SOURCE: ELECTIONS ALBERTA





# Let The Slicing Begin

OPINION EXILE

**EVENTS IN KOSOVO SHOW HOW THE WORLD LOVES TO ENDORSE INDEPENDENCE... EXCEPT WHEN IT DOESN'T**

It's a strange world indeed where Jack Layton and George W. Bush are de facto allies, but we're there now. And the weirdness doesn't stop there. Not only does Bush have Layton's support, but he's also opposed by Stephen Harper, who thus far sides with the Russians.

I'm talking about Kosovo, of course, the U.S.-backed entity that Canada has not yet recognized, but that NDP leader Jack Layton says we should.

Canadian recognition of Kosovo is inevitable. Ottawa will not be among the final holdouts against the Kosovars' recent unilateral declaration of independence. Any realistic observer accepts that Kosovo will not return to Serbian rule under any circumstances short of a world war won by the Russians. A short period of Canadian non-recognition, to protest the idea of unilateral secession, will end with Canada lining up with most other western countries

in acquiescing to the new state.

The international faultlines laid bare by the Kosovo issue may be predictable but they are nevertheless extraordinary. A combination of the U.S., the majority of its European allies, Muslim countries, and most secessionist movements worldwide have welcomed the new state. Nations targeted by secessionist movements, like Canada, China, Russia, and Spain are united in withholding recognition but have little else in common. Each capital decides its position on Kosovo based on its own political realities and not according to the merits of the situation in the Balkans itself.

Nothing unusual about that, except that the consequences in this case could easily get out of hand. The idea promoted by Kosovar politicians and their supporters that their declaration of independence is a one-off that will not serve as a precedent anywhere else is crazy, and I'm not sure whom they expect to believe it.

A formal political split between Albanians and Serbs was unavoidable after so much bloodshed, but the terms of the divorce are narrow and

unreasonable. Clear U.S. support for Kosovan independence made any other outcome impossible and left Serbs with no negotiating position. It is, however, a serious error to attempt to "solve" Kosovo in isolation, without taking into account the rights and aspirations of surrounding communities and nations.

This ham-handed territorial surgery leaves the whole region vulnerable to competing claims, which the international community, such as it is, has signed away the legitimacy to resolve. Secessionists in Europe and elsewhere now claim quite reasonably that those who support Kosovan independence can have no principled objections to Albanians in Macedonia doing the same thing, or Serbs in Bosnia, or Russians and Ukrainians in Romanian-backed Moldova, for that matter.

Nonsense, say Kosovo's proponents. This is a unique situation—a martyred, isolated people gaining independence from the last outpost of a genocidal regime. Under NATO and EU guidance, the new state will respect minority rights and develop along modern, democratic lines.

The only problem is that this is

complete garbage. No one can dispute the crimes of Yugoslavia's late president, Slobodan Milosevic, but what is often forgotten in the Kosovo narrative is decades of Albanian suppression and oppression of the Serbian community. Serb numbers in Kosovo decreased steadily as a result, from near-parity 60 years ago to less than 10 per cent today. And NATO's defeat of Serbia in 1999 led to mass expulsions of Serbs and the systematic desecration of Serb historical and religious sites, with western forces well aware of what was going on.

The new state's government is in the hands of veterans of the now-disbanded Kosovo Liberation Army, an organization responsible for murdering hundreds or even thousands of civilians. Such leaders are unlikely to suddenly discover the virtues of protecting minority rights or promoting the rule of law, though they have the jargon down when dealing with western media.

What an independent Kosovo represents is not the triumph of democracy and human rights but an important victory for Albanian nationalism in its long struggle against

its Serb counterpart. In international politics, who is stronger almost always matters more than who is right, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Balkans.

The question is: what happens next? Does the seceding body automatically have a right to maintain its territorial integrity? There are still a few districts in the new country of Kosovo where Serbs form the majority. If Serbia is divisible, why not Kosovo? And if both are divisible, why not accept a similar independence declaration by "Republika Srpska," the Serbian political entity in Bosnia & Hercegovina? The fact that this will not happen anytime soon has nothing to do with justice or self-determination. The real reason is that the U.S. and its European allies see the Serbs as political and strategic adversaries, closely connected to the Russians.

What remains to be seen is how hard the Russians and their allies are prepared to push back—and what that will mean for the Balkans and for the rest of us.

*inexileeverywhere@gmail.com*

## LETTERS

### PARANORMAL CHALLENGE

I was excited to see that you sent someone to review the Russian Tea Room ["Tale Of Two Psychics," SEE #742] but my delight deflated after reading such straight-faced hogwash.

To suggest that there are good and bad psychics is to discourage and dispose of all critical thinking skills. It is more accurate to suggest that there are good and bad con artists—ones that impress you for return consumership, and ones that want your money now and to hell with tomorrow.

To date, there are no known records of a psychic finding a missing person, predicting a natural disaster, or—what should be an epidemic if their claims were true—winning the lottery.

James Randi (the maharajah of the modern skeptic movement) has for years offered \$1 million to any psychic, mentalist, or even homeopathist, who could prove their supernatural abilities under a controlled setting (you know, like science). Some of the challenged charlatans have exercised excuses like "I don't need the money" (but I'm sure a charity does) or "I don't have to prove myself" (yes, you do). So after 44 years of the challenge, the total number of prizewinners is zero. The One Million Dollar Paranormal Challenge has proved so futile that last month it was discontinued to free up funds for something more useful in advancing science.

OMAR MOULLEM, VUE WEEKLY

### IN DEFENSE OF LOTUSLAND

Reading Fish Griwkowsky's incoherent column has always been a source of some

consternation for myself. As a consumer of media, I must say that Mr. Griwkowsky holds the remarkable distinction of being the most incomprehensible columnist in this nation. His aimless wanderings through what seems to be a haunted forest of half-baked ruminations have given my friends and I much entertainment over the years—though not for the reasons he was shooting for, I'm sure. I have a standing bet to some members of my social circle that I will buy a steak dinner to the one who can actually a single shred of meaning from the tangled morass that is this scribe's output.

It was his latest column ["Edmonton: The Not Overly Serious City," SEE #742] that prompted this letter in which he actually seemed to have a point for just over half a sentence, lost himself and his reader, and then to my surprise actually returned to the point for the space of half a hazy breath. His point being that he believes that the city of Vancouver itself, as some malevolent supernatural force it seems, was partly responsible for the deaths of three of his friends. Griwkowsky does not make a single connection between the city itself and the fates of his three comrades beyond an assertion that people do not make eye contact in Vancouver and that people apparently wear clothes that have a "cut" to them.

Having lived in Edmonton for 24 years, and having this Christmas past moved back to this fair city on the coast, I can cheerfully state that Mr. Griwkowsky should spend more time playing videogames and "navel-gazing" than he should encoding the nebulous mists that appear to be his thoughts into a form that can be inflicted onto others by way of print. I make eye contact and have had eye contact made with me on average 20-30 times a day by my estimation.

I shared this article with several friends, a few of which are proud Edmonton expatriates and asked for their opinion. Beyond sharing my sentiment that Mr. Griwkowsky would perhaps better serve the community at large by limiting his ruminations to a bar stool at The Black Dog as opposed to print media, they laughed off his claim that Vancouver's downtown core is "not real." Last time I checked, the buildings in downtown Vancouver were made of the same materials (steel, glass, stone, and plastics) as those in Edmonton.

I'm still not sure what point he was trying to make regarding his tragic loss of three friends, which I empathize with. However, drug and alcohol abuse in Edmonton remains high, as does violent crime. People in Edmonton suffer from clinical depression and suffer traumatic events in their lives, much as they do everywhere else. Edmonton is no more or no less an alienating city than Los Angeles, Montreal, London, or Frankfurt. I am happy that Mr. Griwkowsky has good friends in Edmonton, and he is more than welcome to stick with them. In the meantime, perhaps Mr. Griwkowsky has failed to recognize the importance of adventure beyond walking across a bunch of snow under the High Level. It is a small world with lots of corners, and one of them happens to be Vancouver.

ROBERT LUTENER

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## RE-ELECT LAURIE Blakeman EDMONTON-CENTRE

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- Affordable Housing & Support for the Homeless
- Environmental Protection



Storied by the Re-Elect Laurie Blakeman Campaign

[www.laurieblakeman.ca](http://www.laurieblakeman.ca)

For more information, please contact Laurie at 454-9433 or the Alberta Liberal Party at 1-800-661-9201.

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## ACTIVISM

**ACTIVIST AGENDA** An online newsletter resource for activism related events in Edmonton, with up-to-date information on sustainable practices, networking, and active organizations in the city. Supplied and maintained by Earth's General Store (10832-82 Ave. upstairs, 439-8725). Go to [www.egs.ca](http://www.egs.ca), info also available in-store.

**BIKE WORKS** Fix your own bike. Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers. Hours vary by season, call ahead: 433-2453. Info: [www.edmontonbikes.ca](http://www.edmontonbikes.ca).

**CJSR NEWS VOLUNTEERING** Gain experience in radio, contribute to a diverse community, and learn new skills, all while sharing your community stories. Info: [news@cjsr.com](mailto:news@cjsr.com).

**COUNCIL OF CANADIANS 3RD WED EVERY MONTH** Independent public interest organization promoting economic justice, democracy, and asserting Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500.

**EDMONTON 9/11 TRUTH** An organization for Canadian citizens questioning the events of 9/11. For news, links, and local events go to [www.edmonton911truth.com](http://www.edmonton911truth.com).

**EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 7 PM** An activist arts organization, seeking socially conscious artists, and production volunteers on an ongoing basis. Info: 434-9236 or [contact@edmontonsmallpress.org](mailto:contact@edmontonsmallpress.org).

**FRIENDS OF LUBICON ALBERTA THU, 4 PM** APIRG OFFICE, HUB MALL, U OF A CAMPUS Grassroots solidarity organization demanding fair and just settlement for the Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta. Info: [www.lubicon.org](http://www.lubicon.org).  
**GREENPEACE ALBERTA** Working and recruiting active people to help put an end to one of the world's most destructive projects: the Alberta Tar Sands. Info: [hmudema@greenpeace.org](mailto:hmudema@greenpeace.org).

**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7 PM** RM 2-42, HUMANITIES BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS. Meetings open to the public. Info: [edmonton.iww.ca](http://edmonton.iww.ca).  
**MADELEINE SARAH FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM** FACULTY SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST. RM 3-18 Organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Instruction in French, English, and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7332.

**PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE MON, 5-7 PM** EDUCATION NORTH 4-104, U OF A CAMPUS A youth group promoting anti-racist and diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or [www.naart.org](http://www.naart.org).

**RALLY TO DEMAND JUSTICE FOR FORT CHIPEWYAN MAR 1, 1 PM** ALBERTA LEGISLATURE GROUNDS Members of Fort Chipewyan call for a moratorium on tar sands development.

**SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA** Prairie Chapter works with ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: [www.sierraclub.ca/prairie](http://www.sierraclub.ca/prairie).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT 4TH FRI EVERY MONTH, 7 PM** LUTHERAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, MAIN HALL, 10804-119 ST. MAR 28 "War on Democracy" US Imperialism: Latin America, Cuba, Embargo, SS donation or PWYF at the door. Screenings followed by group discussion. Info: [ngt.edmonton@gmail.com](mailto:ngt.edmonton@gmail.com).

**THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES TUE, 7 PM** STEEPS TEA LOUNGE, 11116-82 AVE. Screenings free. Info: 588-8105 or [michael@steeps.ca](mailto:michael@steeps.ca).

**UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE LAST FRI EVERY MONTH, 3 PM** BOYLE MCCUALEY HEALTH CENTRE, 2ND FL. BOARD ROOM, 10628-96 ST. Info: [GreenpeaceCanada](http://GreenpeaceCanada), 922-5566.

**WOMEN IN BLACK 1ST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH, 10-11 AM** STRATHCONA FARMERS' MARKET, 83 AVE. & 103 ST. International women's peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish and Arab women, opposing violence in all forms. All women, men, and children invited to attend the bi-weekly silent vigil. Info: 435-7051.  
**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM** REMEDY CAFE, 8631-109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings go to [www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=355925104](http://www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=355925104).

## READINGS & LECTURES

**AN EDUCATIONAL CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE MAR 5, 7-9 PM** KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Scientist, conservationist, writer, and leader in Christian Stewardship, Dr. Calvin DeWitt will discuss climate change and ways which people are called to care for creation.

**ARE WE MAD? CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM MAR 1, 10 AM-5 PM** U OF A'S TELUS CENTRE 111 ST AND 87 AVE. Individuals including former psychiatric service users, patient activists, science journalists and traditional academics discuss criticisms of Canadian mental health in its legal, ethical, historical, and pharmacological aspects. Presented by the Legal Activists Collective. Info: 264-2745.

**BANNED BOOKS CAFE FEB 28, 7 PM** STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE Readings of challenged books and discussion about censorship, part of Freedom to Read Week. Info: 496-7000.

**CANADA'S DEADLY SECRET: URANIUM, THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR SYSTEM AND ALBERTA FEB 29, 7 PM** STANLEY

**A MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE** Author Dr. Jim Harding discusses the impact of uranium mining and nuclear power on everything from public health, tar sands extraction, to nuclear weapons. Info: Leila, 439-1160.

**CREATIVE WORKS READINGS UNTIL MAR 4, 3-30 PM** HUMANITIES CENTRE, RM 4-29, U OF A CAMPUS. MAR 4 Sher-D Wilson, poet, playwright, performer and film-maker. Readings free, all welcome. Presented by the U of A's department of English and Film Studies.

**EXPLORING MEANINGFUL ARCHITECTURE MAR 11, 7 PM** GRANT MACEWAN CITY CENTRE CAMPUS, CN CONFERENCE THEATRE, 10700-104 AVE. Dutch Architect, Ernst von Meijenfeldt, presents an array of architectural spaces and places like considers meaningful and that contribute to his architectural signature. Tickets: Members \$15, Non-members \$20, Student/Senior \$10. Info: [www.jungforum.com](http://www.jungforum.com) or 488-0477.

**FACTORY WEST READING SERIES 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH, 7-30 PM** UNDERDOG (BSMT), BLACK DOG FREE-HOUSE, 10425-82 AVE. A variety of poetry and fiction readings, hosted by Rob McEwen during the remainder of his tenure in the U of A's writer-in-residence. Info: [robmcen.ca/blogspot.com](http://robmcen.ca/blogspot.com).

**FROM SILENT SPRING TO SILENT NIGHT: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? FEB 29, NOON, M-149 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING, U OF A** Dr. Hayes uses frog development as a model system to address broad themes in biology (genetics, physiology, development, ecology and evolution), conservation and policy. Free Admission.  
**LUNCH BY THE BOOKS STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE** Noon-hour discussions offered by the U of A's Faculty of Arts and the Edmonton Public Library. Free, everyone welcome. Info: [www.uafweb.valberta.ca/arts/lfundbythebooks.cfm](http://www.uafweb.valberta.ca/arts/lfundbythebooks.cfm)

**THE OLD LOST LAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND: MEMORY,**

**FAMILY, FICTION AND MYTH MAR 5, 7-30 PM** THE TIMMS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS Wayne Johnston, acclaimed Canadian author, will deliver the second annual Henry Kreisel Lecture. A book signing and reception will follow. Free admission.

**PALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S 2ND BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM MAR 11 9 AM-5 PM** MAR 8 10 AM-NOON & 1-3-30 PM ROOM 3-22 CAS BUILDING, U OF A Speakers and poster presenters from across Canada. Presentations free, tours \$5. Info: email, [unfapalaeo@ualberta.ca](mailto:unfapalaeo@ualberta.ca).

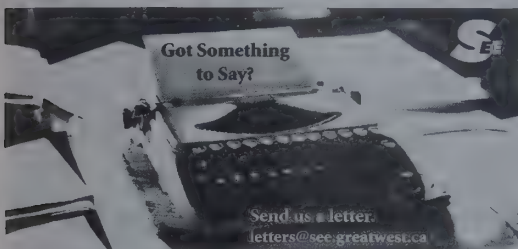
**POETRY OPEN STAGE THU 8 PM** NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR, 10354 JASPER AVE., 425-9730. Weekly open stage poetry readings and performances. All welcome.  
**POETS' HAVEN READING SERIES MON, 7 PM** UPPER CRUST CAFE, 10909-86 AVE. Weekly readings, presented by the Stroll of Poets Society. Info: Nic, 422-8174 or [www.strollofpoets.com](http://www.strollofpoets.com).

**POETS INK THU, 7-9 PM** ST. THOMAS CAFE, ST. ALBERT. Monthly free writing evenings. Info: [www.poetsink.org](http://www.poetsink.org).

**RAISING WELL BEHAVED KIDS MAR 1, 2-30 PM** WHITE-MUD CROSSING LIBRARY Reading by author Sue Kruszewski. Info: 496-1822.

**STORY SLAM 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 8 PM** BLUE CHAIR CAFE, 9624-76 AVE. Sign-up 7 pm. First ten writers only, allotted five minutes each. Info: [thebunkersproject.ca@hotmail.com](http://thebunkersproject.ca@hotmail.com).

**WELCOME TO THE REEL WORLD SERIES WED, 5 PM** RM 325, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING (CEB), U OF A CAMPUS Global issues film and speaker series. MAR 5, "Cine Mabeume O Cinema Descobre o Brasil"; MAR 12, "Refugees of the Blue Planet"; MAR 19, "Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars"; MAR 26, "Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers". Info: [www.iweekualberta.ca](http://www.iweekualberta.ca).

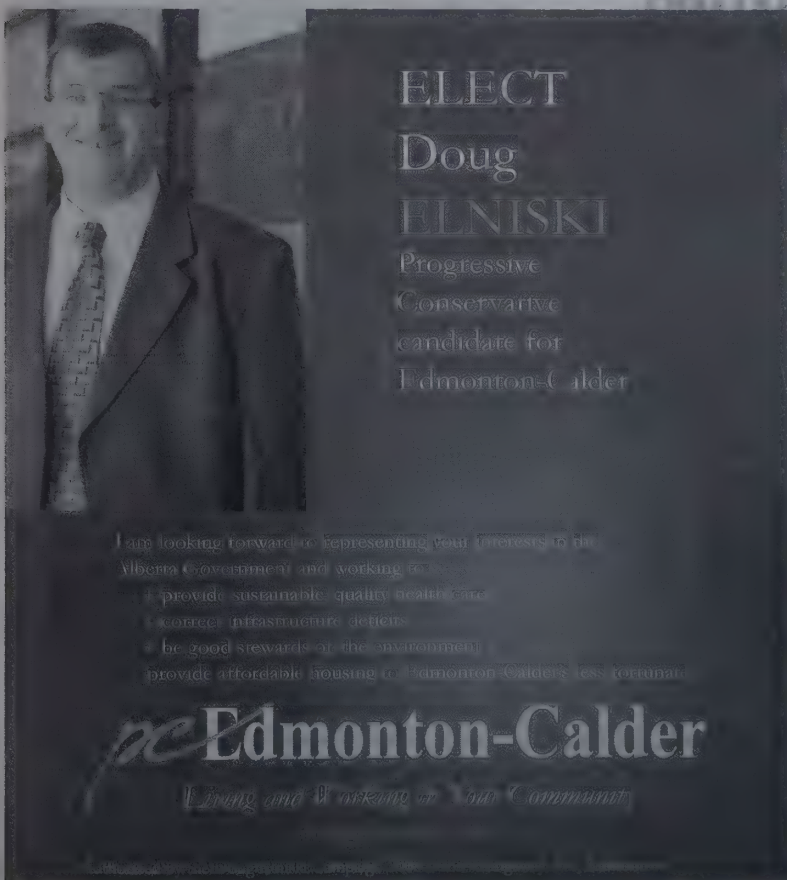


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CABIN FEVER • RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS • BY RYAN SMITH | 752 words

# Taming The Mall-Beast

**IT’S BEEN NEARLY 20 YEARS SINCE THE MINDBENDER INCIDENT, SO IT’S HIGH TIME THIS LIFE-LONG EDMONTONIAN GAVE IT A GO**

It’s cold, it’s gray, the streets are thick with oatmeal-slush, your Vitamin D and serotonin levels are dropping as you breathe—what to do on one of these dreary February days? Well, you could go to The Mall.

I know, I know. West Edmonton Mall is a destination we locals avoid in all but the most desperate of circumstances, but it’s not just a traffic-crippling blight on the landscape, or the place that houses some of the palest humans on earth. Tourists come from all around the world to experience WEM-tastic thrills—thrills I had never before tasted, though I’ve lived in Edmonton a total of nearly 30 years. I thought it was high time to join the fun. My plan was to cold-cock winter by hitting Galaxyland and rid-

ing the two “extreme” rollercoasters. My friend, who said she’d join me for moral support, had already ridden them both. Galaxyland’s marquee attraction, The Mindbender, has been on my to-do list for over a decade.

Yes, of course I remember the infamous accident back in ’86. I saw the picture on the cover of the *Edmonton Sun*. Three people died. Another was paralyzed. A couple of mall staffers told me they weren’t supposed to talk about it, even if asked.

But the ride has had a spotless safety record ever since. And a web search (which I did that night, after the fact) revealed that rollercoasters are, despite all appearances, remarkably safe machines. Statistically safer than cars, at least.

And my friend’s description of the Mindbender experience was certainly irresistible. “It’s like, ‘Oh my God,’” she said. “You try to scream, but you’re moving so fast you can’t!”

By the time we arrived, I was practically giddy. Sweaty-palms giddy.

Forget the oatmeal, the face-numbing, skin-drying cold. Bring on the Mindbender, baby.

We scouted the park. The coaster roared above us, making a sound like the rumble of a massive waterfall as it thundered past.

“Don’t look,” my friend cautioned me. “If you do, you won’t want to try it.”

I decided to start slow, warming up on the park’s newest coaster, the Galaxy Orbiter. My friend reluctantly agreed to join me.

“I’ll do this one,” she said, “but I’m not doing the Mindbender. No way.”

The Orbiter’s yellow-iron track looked mild enough. There weren’t too many high, diving drops, and the trains didn’t rocket nearly as fast as the Mindbender’s. Thing is—and it’s hard to recognize the significance of this fact from the ground—the Orbiter’s cars spin as you go. (It’s the only ride of its kind in Canada.) You tick, tick, tick up the first slope, the car gyrating a bit—not so bad. Then you teeter over the first twisting arc and plummet downward, hanging over the side of the track as you plunge. You think something’s wrong. You think maybe the machine is broken. You think you might die.

I couldn’t even scream, overwhelmed that someone would conceive of and build something so terrifying. It ended, and we staggered off. Now with comprehensively rattled nerves, I wondered what the hell was the Mindbender going to do to me.



Dig it, Sweaty Palms | Don't bother bracing yourself. PHOTO SUPPLIED

I handed my stuff to my friend and stalked off the tame the beast (although “submit to” would probably be a more accurate verb).

On the Mindbender, a 19-year-old attendant—ominously, the only person overseeing the ride—strapped me in. We received a quick bit of instruction and an airhorn, and the beast began its creep toward the roof

of the cavernous park.

On the first drop, my body went rigid, every muscle tense. You know bracing yourself won’t make a lick of difference, but when you’re nosediving and corkscrewing from 14 stories high at 100 kilometres an hour, your coping options are limited (and, of course, totally useless).

The Mindbender can perhaps serve as a healthy lesson for people such as myself, who like to think they are in control of their lives. After the first drop, I decided to try to let go of the fear and enjoy the ride. Suffice it to say, I didn’t quite succeed. A picture of me taken near the end of the ride shows me fighting it, straining as I leaned into the final curve, as if somehow I might be able to steer the contraption.

When it was over, I felt a bit euphoric. Perhaps it was the adrenaline coursing through my system, but I felt proud that I hadn’t cowered, that I had conquered the beast (although “survived it” would probably be a more accurate verb).

The cost to ride both coasters: \$20.

Sure, The Mall means a lot of traffic in the west end, and it provides a stomping ground for all sorts of young, two-bit thugs, but I’ve decided to ease up on it. Hey, it gave me a much-needed midwinter bounce. After the Mindbender, who can’t handle a little oatmeal?

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# 15 minutes

CHRIS SZYDLOWSKI | WESTERN CANADA REGIONAL MANAGER, SEGWAY OF ALBERTA  
PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON  
Q&As WITH EDMONTONIANS BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY

## How hard is it to drive a Segway?

Well, you need training. There's no throttle and no brake; it simply moves as an extension of your body. You lean forward, you go forward, stand straight, you stop, lean forward, you go backward. Now, that's not something that most people are used to. You can feel pretty comfortable on it in about five minutes, but to be totally competent, it'll be about 25 minutes.

## Do you use one to get around town yourself?

Yeah, I do. Even in these kinds of conditions, I'll use one

just to boot out to Blockbuster or the grocery store—it's ideal for short trips. In spring, summer, and fall I'll use it to commute from Westmount to West Edmonton Mall.

## Where do you park ■ If you're just going to the store?

I'll just ride into the store, because it actually takes up less space than a wheelchair and I have as much control as if I were walking. The most important thing is etiquette, yielding to people on foot and pulling over. People are very friendly when you're on a Segway.

## Is it legal to use one on the sidewalks?

Well, the law is still being developed in Canada, and it is a bit of a grey area. We're working with the government to figure out how the Segway fits into our world. The paramedics here have tested it and love it, the police have tested it and love it, the RCMP have tested it and love it.

## So, the idea is that a Segway is kind of in-between driving and walking?

Exactly. The biggest misconception is that the Segway will make people lazy. People are already lazy. People are

already driving three blocks just to go to the video store. This is to reduce car use... I saved 1,200 kilometres on my car last year by using the Segway more and the car less.

## Will the Segway ever be ubiquitous? Everyone will have it

## How long will that take?

The biggest thing is, people don't really like change that much, even though it's good change. But within five or 10 years, it'll be as common as the car.

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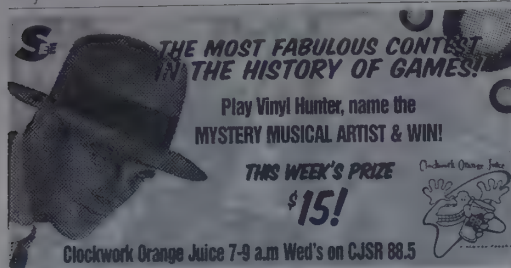


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## mylook

Felisha Sherwood | Doctor's Assistant  
BY CHRIS LEWIS

**Where:** City Centre

**Wearing:** The sunglasses are Obsession. I got them in Florida. The top I got at L.A. Tops and the jeans are from Stitches in West Edmonton. I got my bag at the Aldo and the flip-flops are from Urban Behaviour in City Centre.

**Into:** I really like travelling. I'm going to Vancouver and then Toronto in a month—and I'm spending next New Year's in Tokyo. I plan on shopping mostly, but I really want to see the Harajuku girls. They're the girls that hang out with Gwen Stefani. I really love their style—and their hair! I also promote reggae bands, like Elephant Man and Twister. I'm trying to line up Frambo for the summer.



COMMENT • CULTURED VOTES 172 words

# Ballet Should Be On The Ballot

MY TOWN SCOTT LINGLEY

**MY CULTURE-PACKED EDMONTON WEEKEND MAKES ME WONDER WHY THE ARTS ISN'T AN ELECTION ISSUE**

Political season in Alberta is in bloom, like a false spring preceding the blizzard of more of the usual that will carry us into summer. But, unlike recent provincial runoffs where our sozzled perennial premier coasted back into power with a minimum of resistance, there seems to be an appetite for change from the status quo, and **Steady Eddie Stelmach** has found he actually has to get up on his hind legs and fight if we want to see Alberta's natural governing party restored to power.

The discourse has taken on an interesting aspect in my neighbourhood of Belgravia, where signs touting the local PC candidate are rarer than **Tuareg figure skaters**. At the Health Sciences LRT station, someone thoughtfully amended the slogan on a Stelmach campaign poster to read "Change that works for corporations" and scrawled the word **ANUS** across the prem's genial farmboy features.

Not far from this sight, I recently

concluded the Most Cultured Three Nights Of My Life by attending a ballet performance at the Jubilee Auditorium. Those nights were a dizzying reminder of how art has resisted starvation rations and the butt-ugliness of entrenched mall culture to flourish in Alberta's toolbox. (For contrast, I had spent the previous Saturday night at an ersatz saloon in **Stony Plain** watching guys in cowboy hats slurp hot wings and twirl their partners' round to Alberta country-rock while a small, myopic man pointed at me and insisted that he really wanted to play his black guitar beside me one day.)

My first night of culture featured **Macbeth** at the Citadel—not the most successful interpretation of the Bard I'd ever seen, but nourishing in a cod-liver-oil kind of way. Still, there were all manner of notable locals on hand in their opening night finest, from Folk Fest artistic director **Terry Wickham** to *Journal* drama critic **Liz Nicholls** to CBC host **Peter Brown** to Order of Canada recipient **Thomas Peacocke**, grand eminence of Edmonton's drama scene (whose windows I used to wash). Okay, it wasn't that glitzy, but how could it be with so many gussied-up patrons

gnawing on ice cream bars at intermission?

The next night, a wine-tasting in a specialty wine store in Edmonton's eroded downtown core, was decidedly more diverting. It started with champagne, then chardonnay, then a range of reds from Australia, **Portugal**, California, and B.C. I sniffed and swirled and slurped, veritably tongue-fucking each vintage in pursuit of notes of blackberry, chocolate, pepper, floor wax, citrus, and damp leather. *Imagination*, I learned, is the most important armament in the connoisseur's arsenal—the ability to suss out and put a name to the complex, fleeting flavours splashed across your palate. An authoritative tone is also helpful in giving your assertions the weight of studied discernment.

But the ballet might have been the best culture of all (not that I had any experiences to compare it to). *Alberta Ballet's Dangerous Liaisons* featured perfectly toned bodies bursting across a bare stage like human fireworks, glorious music from classical and contemporary composers, and a bit of dry-humping in powdered wigs to push the narrative along. I was rapt in my seat for the duration, try-

ing not to put words to experience, but just let it happen and sort it all out later.

During the five uninterrupted minutes of applause from the near-capacity house, I remembered something the artistic director of **Alberta Ballet** told me in an interview. That very night, he said, a French cultural representative would be in the audience to see this made-in-Alberta production with an eye to mounting it in Paris. But, he added, despite the cutting-edge, critically acclaimed work they'd created, *Alberta Ballet* couldn't afford the infrastructure to make the most of all the international attention they'd been getting, and without a major philanthropic gift in the near future, they'd soon revert to a much lower profile, once all their best dancers and creative minds

were lured away by better salaries and more supportive venues. He had abandoned hope that the provincial government would prove to be any help at all.

It occurred to me that, in Canada's wealthiest province, the ballet should really be an election issue. We should be voting for more lithe, athletic bodies, more wild-yet-elegant eroticism, more visionary fusions of movement, sound, emotion, and artifice. Albertans deserve to have their souls set aloft by gorgeous, vibrant art, if only to counterbalance the environmental annihilation, waste, and greed in the oilpatch that, so we're told, makes our province the best place to live in Canada. Find me someone who will say that out loud at a leader's debate and they've got my vote.

50 BUCK • BLAME IT ON THE BOOM • BY CHRIS LEWIS | 533 words

## Give A Hipster A Break

**THIS WEEK'S SOBUCKER OVERSPENDS A WEE BIT, BUT AT LEAST HE'S NOT SCRUFFY ANYMORE**

**\$6.50: Lunch at Soul Soup**

Rather than pretending that I live in a more temperate climate, I decide to embrace Edmonton's more wintry possibilities. Something warm is always good: soup, for example. I'm sure that our exhaustive winters make soup aficionados of us all, but I'm out for more than chicken noodle, cream of mushroom, and minestrone. I head to Soul Soup (#140, 10020-101A Ave) where they offer a line of gourmet soups, and put my slurping skills to the test with a warm bowl of creamy wild salmon and corn, or maybe the red lentil with wild mushroom. Hmm.

**\$20: Movie rentals from The Lobby**

2008 has been an excellent year for films thus far. Unfortunately, not only have I seen everything, but February also happens to be the saddest month for the silver screen. Bah! Who wants to go out anyway? I head over to The Lobby (10815-82 Ave) and check out their archive of obscure, occult, and

esoteric movies. If they don't freak the shit out of me, then they're sure to make me chuckle. I'm tempted by the prospect of a B-movie marathon and, in light of George A. Romero's upcoming *Diary of the Dead* (when it'll come to Edmonton is anybody's guess), it's the perfect excuse to watch the first four entries in the *Dead* series.

**\$18: Shave at Mickey's Barber Shop**

These days it seems like every hipster worth his weight in vinyl has a beard.

I confess, I have some pretty fine face-fur myself, but I'm willing to sacrifice it for the sake of novelty. I go to the only person in the city I know of who does the ol' shave and haircut, Mickey's Barber Shop (10306-82 Ave). Unfortunately, due to inflation, it's no longer two bits. Letting a complete stranger slide a razor across my neck sends chills down my spine. But I believe in Mickey just as I believe that Barack and Hilary should step aside and let Oprah Winfrey run for the Democrats. Admittedly, my face feels naked without my beard, but it gives me the opportunity to join that other hipster camp: the scarf-wear-

ers.

**\$2: Homeless guy**

I admit I don't shell out change often. But we've all had our breaks. A little good karma never hurts.

**\$9: Magazines from The Front Page**

I think it's universally acknowledged that Edmonton's transportation system is stretched a little thin, and it's not going to improve by much for some time (Kudos to the ETS employees for their thankless efforts.)

A bus trip from anywhere in the city to anywhere else could last anywhere from five minutes to two hours. I like to think of myself as a patient person, but c'mon! Two hours?! That's a lot of sitting! For that reason, I'm stocking up on quick but interesting reading material. Although

I think HUB Cigar has the best selection of magazines in the city, The Front Page (10356 Jasper Ave) runs a close second. I peruse a bit and end up with a handful of local art and international film 'zines.

Okay, so I'm five bucks over. But really, I'm chalking it up to inflation.

Wanna try it? Send your ideas for 50Buck to [stories@see.greatwest.ca](mailto:stories@see.greatwest.ca).

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# To Screw Or Not To Screw

**WINE AFICIONADOS SNEER AT SCREW CAP BOTTLES. BUT CORK SNOBS MAY BE CLINGING UNNECESSARILY TO THE PAST**

Let's pretend we're on a date at a nice restaurant. I select a bottle after carefully perusing the wine list, and when the waiter brings it over, instead of going through the ritual of uncorking the bottle, he or she unceremoniously cracks the screwcap and pours. Are you still coming home with me?

If you answered no... well, you aren't getting laid tonight, but you can rest assured that you're not alone in your distaste. But if you answered yes, welcome to an ever-growing group advocates for alternative closures. There are a few substitutes out there for natural cork (including synthetic corks molded from chunks of plastic, composite corks made from processed cork and bonding materials, and glass corks), but cork's main competitor remains the much-maligned screwcap. And that doesn't sit well with many wine-loving restaurateurs.

At the Hardware Grill, for instance, owner Larry Stewart refuses to serve any wines bottled with a screwcap. "There isn't anything romantic or interesting about cracking a screwcap," he says. "It's like serving one of my finest meals on a paper plate.

It all comes down to service and presentation."

Stewart also considers it a matter of respect: after decades of advocating the proper method of opening and serving cork-sealed wine, wineries switched to screwcaps overnight without consulting the service industry. Stewart thinks it all comes down to a matter of money—corks are expensive and many wineries have chosen screwcaps simply because they're cheap.

He raises a valid point: above and beyond the price of the raw materials, corks also come with hidden costs, namely in the form of the chemical compound 2,4,6 trichloroanisole (TCA). TCA forms as a result of interactions between molds, chlorine, and phenols. When present in a wine, TCA mutes the fruit flavours and, in high enough concentrations, makes the wine smell like a damp basement filled with wet cardboard—this is what your wine aficionado pals refer to as "corked" wine. While not harmful if ingested, TCA certainly ruins the pleasure of a nice wine.

And since the winery is ultimately responsible for replacing this huge margin of loss (liquor stores and restaurants get reimbursed for corked wines), many producers have forsown romance and made the financial decision to go with screwcaps.

The exact percentage of bottles that fall victim to TCA contamination varies from source to source. Wine agent Brett Norrie, who represented Wynns while working for Foster's, found some form of cork taint in four to six bottles per case of Wynns Riesling—a 30 to 50 per cent loss. After the winery switched to screwcaps, Norrie found only one faulty bottle—and that was due to damage incurred during shipping, not because of TCA.

While restaurants may not have many corked wines sent back, that doesn't mean the corked wines don't exist; it means that the customer doesn't realize the wine is faulty. The drinker may assume he or she just doesn't like the wine, perhaps resulting in an undesired bad reputation for the winery.

Corks present a few other problems: they tend to disintegrate with age (an important consideration for those who cellar wines for long periods of time); and they can only be removed with a corkscrew (or a hammer and butter knife if you're truly desperate). While screwcaps do away with the need for corkscrews, the jury is still out on the ramifications of aging wine in screwcap-sealed bottles. Some contend screwcaps seal the bottle too effectively, and do not allow the tiny amount of oxygen necessary to "age" a wine.



**Romancing The Cork** | Cracking a screwcap just ain't the same as the old twist 'n' yank. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Imagine saving a bottle for 20 years, only to find out that it tastes exactly the same as it did in its youth!

Other complaints about screwcaps focus on the environmental, social, and economic impacts of reduced cork production. Cork is a renewable resource—cork tree bark is harvested every nine or 10 years, and the corks are then punched out, which means one tree can yield millions of corks over its century-long life. While screwcaps could potentially be made from recycled materials, there's no guarantee this is actually done.

Getting rid of natural corks would also have a huge impact on the economies of cork-producing countries. Portugal would lose one of its biggest exports, while the already-struggling countries of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia would suffer a serious blow.

Clearly, there is no easy solution to the cork quandary. But the fact remains, every day more and more good wines are bottled with a screwcap. Refusing these bottles out of principle robs you of a truly enjoyable experience.

DINING • AFRICAN CUISINE • BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 174 words

## Here Today, Gone Somali

**HAMDI MAY TECHNICALLY BE PART OF A CHAIN, BUT IT WILL TRANSPORT YOU INTO AN EXOTIC, FARAWAY LAND**

**HAMDI RESTAURANT**

7835 St. Albert Trail, 488-7885

Sometimes you have a dining experience that makes you momentarily forget where you are. Hamdi Restaurant has two ways of transporting you. One, it's a generic, largely unadorned room that could be anywhere. Two, it serves a narrow but hearty selection of entrées cooked in a Somali style and, at least on the

night we were there, attracts a primarily East African clientele.

Hamdi's blank pink walls and purple ceiling, with the BBC news chattering from a TV on the far end of the pastel cavern from the entrance, made me recall every utilitarian meal I've ever consumed abroad, whether in a nondescript, tile-lined lunch counter along a sun-baked street in Evora, Portugal or in a carpeted nook in the maze of alleys around old Damascus, Syria. Such places give you the feeling that, more than experiencing authentic local cuisine, you're eating what everyone there else eats. The offerings aren't rich or in any sense gourmet, but they're as much a part of culinary culture as the recipes that make it into cookbooks.

Hamdi's menu is a case in point. The bulk of the menu consists of platters that feature your choice of beef, goat, chicken, or fish, sided with salad and one of rice, spaghetti, or chapatti. While our smiley but shy server went to get our beverages, my co-diner and I negotiated over which two platters we'd like to share.

The server tried to help us settle things but, as his recommendations took in about half of our choices, we were pretty much on our own. The prices didn't help either, since pretty much everything was either \$10 or \$11, tax included. Finally we settled on a goat meat platter (\$11) with rice, and a chicken steak platter (\$11) with chapatti.

The menu told us that Hamdi's Edmonton is a satellite of a Toronto-based chain, but it in no way resembled any chain restaurant we'd ever seen. We felt much more like we were in the headquarters of a social club as our fellow diners circulated between tables, chatting in Somali. All the same, the other patrons offered a cheerful greeting when they passed our table on the way out the door.

Before long, the server returned with our heaped plates. My co-diner

gazed at me over a sizable mound of rice topped with stewed vegetables, a smaller heap of iceberg lettuce, and some dark brown marinated goat-on-the-bone. My plate featured two seasoned chicken breasts that had been pounded out and pan-fried, with a few veggies, lettuce with bottled Italian dressing, and a tall side order of chapatti, cut into tidy rectangles.

The unfanciness of the sides—the veggies were frozen peas and carrots cooked in curry spices with potato and onion—could be excused, I figured, if the meal's centrepiece was as toothsome as it looked. The chicken was tender and tasted like it had been dusted with mild jerk spices—not bad, but not remarkable.

Then the server set a small metal bowl between us and uttered, "hot sauce." He also placed a banana beside each of our plates and withdrew, smiling. The condiment was dill-pickle green and liquidy, but when I spooned it over my chicken and vegetables, something wonderful happened. All of a sudden my food had zest, not just in its newly imparted hotness, but in a complex citrus-vinegar tang that woke up the whole meal.

My co-diner volunteered some of

her goat and rice for my delectation. If I had it to do over again, I would probably have ordered the goat with rice, and called for chapatti on the side. The rice was imbued with turmeric and other aromatic seasonings.

And the goat—oh, the goat! It's not always my favourite meat, as some preparations have a tendency to make it taste like a dishrag, but this serving of goat possessed not a trace of stank. It had been cooked to fall-apart perfection, so that you could slurp it easily off the succulent goat-shred.

The chapatti, light and flaky on its surface but with a seam of dense doughiness at its core, is the perfect aid for eating with your hands—there's no other way to get at every succulent goat-shred.

When we'd finished and sat patting our sated bellies, the server returned proffering a cautious thumbs-up by way of asking about our meal. We nodded in the affirmative and declined another look at the menu, content to conclude the meal with just-ripe bananas and the fantasy of having alighted in a part of the world we'd never seen.

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## EVENTS

**ALBERTA STUDENT FILM FEST MAR 28-29, METRO THEATRE, ZEDLER HALL, CITADEL THEATRE** Screenings and awards presentation for student made films. Presented by the U of A Society for Creative Filmmaking. Info: www.myspace.com/albertastudentfilmfest

**AN EVENING IN GRECE MAR 6, 6 PM, KOUTOUNI'S TAVERNA, 10310-45 AVE** Dinner, drink prizes, and belly-dancing in support of the Edmonton John Howard Society. Tickets: \$90 at 970-5108

**ARTIST TRADING CARDS MAR 1, 12-3 PM, THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351-118 AVE** Miniature works of art to make and trade. Call Becky, 435-3499 to register

**THE CARROT ARTS MARKET EVERY SAT, 10 AM-2 PM, THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351-118 AVE** Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: www.thecarrotart.com

**THE GOOD MEDICINE FILM FESTIVAL MONTHLY SCREENINGS, STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE MAR 15, 7 PM** "Superize Me" Various health related films presented throughout the semester. Info: www.abhimn.ualberta.ca

**GREEN AND WHITE GALA MAR 6, SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE** An Irish-themed event with cocktail reception, dinner, Irish horse racing, entertainment and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation. Tickets: \$300, \$2,400 for a table of 8. Info: www.prostatecan.ca

**JOURNEY TO THE LIGHT: GALA FUNDRAISER MAR 5, 7-11 PM, ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, 100-1020 ASPER AVE** A spring gala fundraiser by Human Youth Society. The event showcases the artistic journeys of youth-at-risk with fashion, dance, music, visual art and poetry. Tickets: \$125, \$1000 for a book of 10 at 422-6223

**MURDER AND MAYHEM FUNDRAISER FEB 29, RUTHERFORD HOUSE, SASKATCHEWAN DR** Classic murder mystery evening in support of the Youth Emergency Shelter Society. Tickets \$100, contact Tara at 893-8962, or Auralia at 468-7070 before Feb 24.

**PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY MAR 8, 12:30-3:30 PM, THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351-118 AVE** Social Art experiment with photographer Wendy Salomons. Call Becky, 435-3499 to register. Info: www.pinholephoto.net

**WIDFLOWER SEED PLANTING WORKSHOP MAR 2, 1:30-3:30 PM, RIVERDALE HALL, 9231 100 AVE** A variety of native wildflower and grass seeds, pots and potting soil will be supplied. Gardeners will be available to answer your questions. Admission: \$5 at the door, \$2 for 12 pack of seeds. Email cad@transcena.com to register.

## MEETINGS

**ACOA EVERY MON, INCLUDING HOLIDAYS, 7:30 PM, BSM, BRASIDIE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 66 BERNARD DR, ST. ALBERT, CORNER OF BISHOP ST & 3RD WILSON CHURCHILL AVE** USE NORTH ENTRANCE. Twelve-step support program for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families.

**ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH, 5:30-9 PM, THE FACILITY CLUB, 1435 SASK DR** Pre-register at www.aea.ab.ca

**CINE-CLUB EDMONTON 1ST MON EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, AUDITORIUM DU CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN, U of A** Donations accepted at the door.

**EDMONTON NATURE CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS, ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12845-102 AVE** Informative monthly meetings with guest speakers. Info: Mark, 430-7134 or mne@telusplanet.net

**FORWARD THINKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE, 7 PM, STRATHCONA COMMUNITY BUILDING, 2001 SHERWOOD DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK** Build self-confidence and communication skills. Info: 922-3875

**FRENCH CONVERSATION TH1 ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE, #202, 8627 RUE MARIE-ANNE GABOURY** Info: Godfrey, 469-0399

**FRENCH MEETUP** Informal conversation group, all levels of French speakers welcome. Info: french.meetup.com/236 or 720-5169

**GREAT EXPEDITIONS, HOSTEL TRAVEL 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM, HOSTELING INTERNATIONAL, 10640-81 AVE, MAR 10** India, Nepal, Tibet, and Bangladesh. Everyone welcome. For presentation schedule or info: Sylvia, 454-6216 or 455-6741

**HIP MAMMAS MEET-UP** Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: hipmamas.meetup.com/1751

**ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, WOODY'S, 2ND FL., 1123 ASPER AVE** Cross-dressers, transsexuals, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton\_illusions

**IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 3RD & 4TH THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, ALLENDALE SCHOOL, 6415-106 ST** Informative presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, plus monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: www.imagesga.ca or Sheila, 469-9176

**INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB TUE, 11:30 AM-1 PM, CAFE SELECT, 100 ST & 84 AVE** Business networking group, mixer, and club membership drive. Info: Dwayne,

463-6240 or dwayne@telusplanet.net

**NORADATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-8:45 PM, LONDONDRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDONDRY HALL, 137 AVE, 8:05 ST** Learn to speak clearly and with confidence in a supportive group. Info: www.noradators.com

**NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU, 8-10 PM, 10425 KINGSWAY AVE** Improve public speaking and communication skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 465-3934 or www.norwoodtoastmasters.org

**POWER SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-9 PM, GRANT MACLEAN COLLEGE, 707 CHURCHILL AVE, RM 423** Learn to speak with confidence in a supportive environment. Info: 752-0933 or www.powerspeakers.ca

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES** Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 496-5930

**TOUTRETE SYNDROME SUPPORT IST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-JUNE), 1 PM, ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525-101 ST, NORTH DOOR** Meeting for 15 adults and parents of 15 kids. Info: 1-866-824-9764

**UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7-8:30 PM, RM 601, NORQUEST COLLEGE, 10215-108 ST** Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger, 454-3732, Theresa, 488-4098, or adam@kpiets.net

**WEST-END TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE, 6-6:45 PM, JASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 9010-156 ST** Friendly environment of personal growth and mutual support. Info: 495-5424

**WOM-WIRED ON WORDS SUN, 11AM-1:15 THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE** An eclectic creative writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: bewell2008@gmail.com

**WRITERS WORKSHOPS MAR 1, STRATHCONA COUNTY LIBRARY, 2020 SHERWOOD DR**

**SHERWOOD WED 10-12:30 PM** with Linda Goyette 1:30-4 pm with Todd Babak. Info: Karen, 464-6052

**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM, REMEDY CAFE, 8631-109 ST** For discussion topics and suggested readings go to www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=355921504

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

**CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 10205-101 ST, 479-1999** A range of services for members of the Native community, including a free community lunch Fridays at noon, employment and Public Health information, counselling referrals and one-on-one support, AADAC & Legal Aid referrals, low cost or free beds, housing and clothing referrals. Info: 479-1999

**CLUB LULU LULEMON, 10544-82 AVE** Weekly activities to get you moving. Info: www.lululemon.com, 435-9363 or whyte-community@lululemon.com

**COMMUNITY WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE VARIOUS LOCATIONS** 6 week course advising diet and active lifestyle. Info: Carla, 966-0185

**CONSTELLATION EVERY IST & 3RD WED, 7 PM, 10431-37 AVE** A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 967-1162 or constellation-centre.ca

**GENTLE YOGA RADHA YOGA 9:46-87 AVE** Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday Satsang (by donation). Call for schedule and fees. Info: 422-3363 or www.radha.org

**LIVING POSITIVE TUE, 7-9 PM, SUITE 50, 9920-106 ST** Confidential space where POC people can discuss and share common issues of concern. A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 488-5768 or edlivingpositive.ca

**LOTUS SOLID GYM YOGA STUDIO 10:58-92 AVE** Multidisciplinary yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for runners, pre-natal, post-natal, mommy & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: www.lotussolidgym.com, 434-9642 or info@lotussolidgym.com

**MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM, FACILITE SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST, RM 3-18** An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission free. Info: members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7332

**MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS GADEN SAMTEN LING TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY, 11403-101 ST** Meditation and Buddhist teachings by resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist monk Kunkho Lobsang Dharmchoe. Beginners Tue 7 pm, Intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 479-0014 or www.gadensamtenling.org

**MS ACTIVE NOW 1520, 9405-50 ST** Recreation and physical wellness programs. Info: 471-3034

**RADHA YOGA VARIOUS LOCATIONS** Classes include gentle hatha, hidden languages/reflective hatha, dream yoga, kundalini/power of choice and meditation. Info: 422-3363

**RAJIA YOGA MEDITATION 1020, 1032-105 ST** In association with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization.

Info: www.bksw.org or 425-1050

**RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS TUE & THU, 5:15-6:45 PM, RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE** Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails, includes warm up and cooldown. Info: www.rivervalleyrunners.net or 447-1909

**TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU, 6:30-7:30 PM, ALLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 6320-105A ST** Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: 3045990@hotmail.com

**TRANQUILITY MEDITATION WED, 7 PM, 10502-70 AVE** Tibetan tradition. Free, beginners welcome. Instruction available. Info: Lama Ani Kunsang, 633-6151 or www.karmatashling.org

**VEGETARIANS OF ALBERTA** Monthly events, potluck dinners, and dine-out nights for vegetarians and vegans. Monthly newsletter includes articles on health, environment, and compassion. Mar 9, 5:30 PM, VOA Annual Cook-Off: Crazy Carrots! Riverdale Community Hall, 9231-100 AVE. Tickets: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Info: events@vol.ca or www.VolA.ca

## LEARNING

**AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES 10275 JASPER AVE** Movements, the Afro-Caribbean dance ensemble, offers a variety of African dance classes at all levels. Info: 415-5211 or www.movementsdance.com

**ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES THU (JAN-APR), 7 PM, ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD SCHOOL, 8525-101 ST** With Cristina and Vincente. Info: 905-8505 or members.shaw.ca/tangopuls/home.htm

**BEDOUIN BEATS MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE 2ND FLOOR, 12316 JASPER AVE** For all skill levels. Info: 712-9773 or denise@cabellabledance.com

**DROP-IN FOR THE ARTIST AT HEART PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT** Info: Glenda, 464-4310 or on.hglenda@telus.net

**EDMONTON CHESS CLUB** Learning and playing opportunities for students and families at Edmonton Chess Club and other locations in the city. Info: 474-2318 or rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

**EDMONTON WEAVERS' GUILD** Offering classes on weaving, spinning and various workshops. Info: Sonja, 425-1152 or ewg@interbun.com

**EDMONTON WRITERS' CENTRE STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE** A creative space for writers of all genres and levels. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-9 pm, Sat 9 am-6 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Info: 496-7070

**FAPA WORKSHOPS** The Film and Video Arts Society offers one-night workshops twice a month in a variety of media activities. Info: www.favaa.ca or 429-1671

**FLAMENCO LESSONS SUN & MON, 2:30-3:30 PM** Judith and Oscar Jose Garcia teach both Flamenco dance & guitar. Info: 1-800-349-4843 or oigarcia@telusplanet.net

**HARCOURT HOUSE ART CLASSES JAN-APR** A variety of low-cost classes specializing in drawing, pastels, painting, and other mediums, taught by professional artists and educators. Info: www.harcourthouse.ca or 426-4180

**LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION #20, 10716-105 AVE** Recruiting volunteers to help adults develop literacy and math skills on an ongoing basis. Info: Mary, 429-0675

**KARATE INSTRUCTION** Classes for kids over 10, teens, and adults. Info: www.manatsumom.com or 975-6510

**KITA NO TAIKO JAPANESE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS** Scheduled, info, and registration: www.kitanotaikei.ca or 431-0300

**MARS HILL CENTRE 88318-104 ST, 435-0202** Classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: www.marshallcentre.com

**MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, #600, 9990 JASPER AVE** Info: www.mediamag.ca or 695-5675

**METRO CONTINUING EDUCATION 8205-90 AVE** Courses start in Jan/Feb, subjects include dance, fitness, sports, massage, spirituality, and more. Class and schedules available in the free Metro Class Calendar, available throughout the city. Info: 428-1101 or www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca

**MINIERRA MOSAICS ART CLASSES CITY ARTS CENTRE, 10943-84 AVE** A range of mosaic art classes for beginners and intermediates. Info: www.minierramosaics.com or 430-1957

**MOMMY & ME BELLY DANCING** Belly dance classes and parties for adults and children. Info: 488-5571 or belldancers@telus.net

**PRESCHOOL INDOOR SOCCER SAT (NOV-JUN), 9:30 AM-NOON, SACRED HEART SCHOOL, GYM, 96 ST & 108 AVE** Ages 2-12, girls and boys. Basic soccer skills, taught by FIFA certified coach. Info: Tony, 420-0760

## QUEER

**ADAPTE EDUCATION FACILITY U OF A CAMPUS** Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers are community members welcome. Info: andrea.brace@ualberta.ca or 492-0775

**EP5/LGBTQ LIAISON COMMITTEE** The EP5/LGBTQ Liaison Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer,

allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to ep5lgbt@yho.ca. All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit, 421-3489

**INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academics & staff** Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: kwells@ualberta.ca or mwhan@ualberta.ca

**PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE, 488-3234** Hours: Tue-Fri 1:10 PM, Sat 12-3:30 PM Drop-in, library, and community internet services are available. Online newsletters Tue-Fri 1:10 PM, Sat 12-3:30 PM. Info: 488-3234 or www.pridecentreofedmonton.org

**TEAM EDMONTON** A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: www.teamedmonton.ca

**WOMONSPACE** Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: www.gaycanada.ca/womon-space; womonspace@gmail.com, 482-1194

**YOUTHSPACE PRIDE CENTRE EDMONTON, 9540-111 AVE** An after-school drop-in program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning and allied (GLBTQO&A) youth under 25. Open Tue-Sat 3-7 pm. Info: brandan@pridecentreofedmonton.org or 488-3234

## THURSDAY

**BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM** A social group for bi-curious and bi-sexual women. Info: groups.yahoo.com/group/bwiedmont

**COCAINE ANONYMOUS MEETING 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** CA Hotline: 425-7175

**FREE TO BE INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM, AMISKWICAWY ACADemy** Info: volleyball@teamedmonton.ca

**GAYWIRE 6 PM, CFSR 88.5 FM** Edmonton's only radio show concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. News, local and international features, and community events.

**LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: Jeff, 488-3234

**ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, 800TS, 10242-106 ST** Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton\_illusions

## FRIDAY

**GAMES NIGHT FIRST AND LAST FRI EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Coffee and games.

**TRANS SUPPORT GROUP LAST FRI EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** TTQ Alliance, dinner, and social evening for trans-identified and questioning people, family and friends. Info: 718-1412 or ttqalliance@shaw.ca

**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Open forum for queer-friendly women, discussions facilitated by members of the queer women's community. Info: Jocylan, 488-3234

**YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT 6 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE**

## SATURDAY

**NORTHERN CHAPS IST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 PM, 800TS, 10242-106 ST** Edmonton's original leather-fetish-uniform club. Info: main@northandchaps.com or www.northandchaps.com

**NORTHERN TITANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE 7 PM, GATEWAY LANES & RECREATION CENTRE, #100, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD** \$15 per person. Info: bowling@teamedmonton.ca or 436-7892

**SINGLE LESBIANS OVER 40** Women's social group, monthly gatherings for conversation over tea and coffee. Info: singlewomen40plus@yahoo.com

**SUIT UP & SHOW UP MON, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** AA Big Book study. Info: 488-3234

**YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight, and questioning youth (up to 25) gather to have fun and learn in a safe, supportive environment. Info: yuy@shaw.ca

## SUNDAY

**ARCTIC FRONT RUNNERS 10 AM** Runners of all levels of ability welcome. Runs are typically 6-8 km, usually 44-60 minutes. Coffee afterwards. Info: on venues and other runs during the week running@teamedmonton.ca, or 436-7892

**BALLROOM DANCING 7:30-8:30 PM** All gender combinations welcome. Salsa, rhumba, waltz, live. Info: 469-3281 or ballroom@teamedmonton.ca

**EDMONTON PRIME TIMERS (EPT) 2ND SUN MOST MONTHS, 10:00A-11:30 A** Older gay men and admirers meet for a social period, short business meeting, followed by guest speaker, discussion panel, or potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Times World Wide. Info: edmontontp@yaho.ca or www.primetimesworldwide.org/edmonton

**HATHA YOGA 2-3:30 PM, 11005 BREATH YOGA** Introductory level class. Free. No previous experience required. Bring

yoga mat or towel and water. Info: yoga@teamedmonton.ca

**LAMBDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH 7 PM, GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH, 1148-84 AVE** Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual Christians. All denominations and faiths welcome. Info: 887-8611 or lambdacatholicchurch.ca

**MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE** Men's social and discussion group. Facilitated by Bob Wells. Info: robertwells10@hotmail.com or 488-3234

**SQULD OUTING 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, ROBERTSON-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, 10203 123 ST** LGBT-focused alternative worship. Info: 482-1587 or email jayvenstroff@rwc.org

**SOUTHMINSTER-STENHAUER UNITED CHURCH 10 AM, 10740-19 AVE** Welcomes all sexual orientations. Info: 897-4974

**SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE** Info: www.spirituallivingcentre.com or 989-3752

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH 10 AM, 1526-76 AVE** All orientations welcome on Sunday service. Info: 436-1555 or www.afirmminded.ca

**TRANS EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP IST & 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 2 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Provides support and education for all transsexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited, and questioning individuals. Info: www.albertatrans.org or 488-3234

**WOMONSPACE BOARD MEETING IST SUN EVERY MONTH, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE**

## MONDAY

**CURLING WITH PRIDE MON (UNTIL MAR 17), 7:15 PM, GRANITE CURLING CLUB, 8620-107 ST** Info: curling@teamedmonton.ca

**HIV SUPPORT GROUP 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Welcomes all sexual orientations. Info: richard@pridecentreofedmonton.org

## TUESDAY

**FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON 7:15 PM, 10088 MACDONALD DR** A church for all people. Info: 429-2321

**LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: Jeff, 488-3234

**MARKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB NAIT POOL, 11762-106 ST** Recreational and competitive swimming and coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue (8-9 pm) and Thu (7:30-8:30 pm), followed by social meeting. Info: swimming@teamedmonton.ca

**OUTREACH 5 PM, HERITAGE ROOM, ATHABASCA HALL, U OF A CAMPUS U of A** Based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight-but-friendly students, staff, and faculty. Open to the community outside the U of A. Info: www.outreachpalestinehighlights.com or outreach@ualberta.ca

**PLFAG EDMONTON IST TUE EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Support meeting for parents, families, and friends of GLBT individuals. Info: 488-3234

**STEP AEROBICS 5 PM, AEROBICS STUDIO, KINGSMEN SPORTS CENTRE, 9100 WATERLOO DR** Info: step@teamedmonton.ca

**TRANS SUPPORT GROUP 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30-9:30 PM, GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH MEETING ROOM, 1148-84 AVE** Education and support group for trans-identified and questioning people. Info: 718-1412 or ttqalliance@shaw.ca

**TTQ ALLIANCE 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Support meeting for transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning individuals. Providing education, advocacy and support for men, women, and youth.

**WEDNESDAY EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION 2ND WED EVERY MONTH** Casual networking with the GLBT business community. Locations listed on www.edmontorba.org

**FREE TO BE RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM, 101 AMISKWICAWY ACADemy** \$50 per session. Info: reccvolleyball@teamedmonton.ca

**OPEN DOOR CLUB 5 PM, GRANT MACLEAN COLLEGE, THE CENTRE CAMPUS, RM 6-217** Social group for GLBTQ students, faculty, and friends at GACC.

**GYM EDMONTON BADMINTON 6 PM, OLIVER SCHOOL, 10427-118 ST** Women's drop-in recreational badminton, all levels welcome. \$30 for the season, \$5 drop-in. Info: 465-3620

**YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) IST AND 3RD WED EVERY MONTH** Support group for GLBT parents, partners, and friends. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434

**EDMONTON THEATRE PROJECT 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE** Using theatre to increase awareness and reduce homophobic bullying. No theatre experience required. Info: Emily, 488-3234 or emily@pridecentreofedmonton.org

## BATH HOUSES

**DOWN UNDER 1224 JASPER AVE, 482-7960** Open 24/7. Info: www.gayedmonton.ca

**STEAMWORKS 11415 JASPER AVE, 451-5554** Open 24/7.





**BANDS WE WERE OPENING FOR WOULD SEE OUR CROWD REACTION AND WOULD BE LIKE, 'THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR SHOW.'**  
—CRYSTAL CASTLES' ETHAN KATH ON OUTCLASSING THE COMPETITION

MUSIC PREVIEW • SYNTH-PUNK • BY YURI WUENSCH | 877 words

## Crystal Clear

**TORONTO SONIC DUO CRYSTAL CASTLES WANTS YOU TO KNOW THEY'RE NO ELECTRO "ACCIDENT"**

### CRYSTAL CASTLES

w/ Health, Degree, and Acid Wash, Mar 3, Starline Room (10030-102 St.). Tickets: \$16, available at Megatunes, Blackbird, Listen, and Ticketmaster (451-8000/ticketmaster.ca).

Fledgling bands often use their first few gigs to work the kinks out of their act, but Crystal Castles never really had that problem. When co-founders Ethan Kath and Alice Glass debuted their "punk band that traded guitars for synthesizers" in a series of dingy Toronto basement bars a few years ago, the crowds responded immediately—much to the dismay of the bands they were supposed to be "warming up" for. Upstaged, the competition, to borrow from the title of Crystal Castles' last 7" single, engaged an "Air War" of its own.

"They would try turning down the volume down while we were playing," Kath recalls. "Just think of how frustrating that would be if you were onstage and suddenly you couldn't feel the music anymore, like when you're at a club and the beats just go through your chest. Bands we were opening for would see our crowd reaction and would be like, 'This is supposed to be our show.' We ended up having to bring a guy on tour with us to stand by the sound booth and make sure nobody touched the volume knob. It was kind of a hard job; you'd get into a lot of fights. It was hell." (The volume bodyguard, Cam, soon graduated to drummer—look for his solo project, Parallels—and his replacement has since become the band's manager.)

The band's sound is an unquestionable breath of fresh air. Kath's musi-

cal background ranges from hardcore and metal to folk. Glass came up through Toronto's noise band scene—and Crystal Castles sounds like all of these genres, and none of them. Glass's vocals jump from spooky to screamo against beat patterns that sound ripped right out of old Speak & Spells and Donkey Kong consoles. *Loud & Quiet*, a breaking London-based indie mag, has called Crystal Castles "the most exciting and original band in the world right now." They may not be far from wrong.

That's assuming you believe what music magazines tell you. Kath says he isn't one to follow the critics or his own press—he won't, for example, be reading this interview. And he says that's part of the reason why Crystal Castles has been so successful. He and Glass are making music for themselves—everything else is just a bonus. And to his mind, staying blissfully ignorant of institutions like the critics (and conventional wisdom in general) should be the mission of anyone trying to make art.

"When Alice and I got together," he says, "we decided that we didn't want to sound or be like anybody, and you've heard the result. If it's innovative or not is arguable, but in our heads it is. I don't have any formal music training, but I don't see how that matters. I ask that people unlearn their musical theory when they start a band. I don't see how any theory would be a benefit to songwriting."

They're also creating their own instruments, as needed. Kath says no two Crystal Castles performances are ever quite the same because he's routinely juggling and modifying gear. Among the band's more noteworthy mods is a keyboard fitted with a sound chip from an Atari



**She-Ra's Domain** | Crystal Castles take their name from Mattel's '80s cartoon heroine—not the arcade game. PHOTO SUPPLIED

5200 videogame console.

"There's a world of people who play around with chips," Kath explains. "It's called 'circuit bending.' I think the first guy did it in the '60s. So I tried it out. You can take chips from any electronic device that makes sounds and make them do whatever you want them to. You can make notes or annoying sounds... I was walking down the street and someone was having a yard sale. They just had the 5200 console lying in the grass and it looked nice, like a Cor-

vette. Once I got it home, I realized that it was useless because I was never going to play videogames—I hate them. So, I sacrificed it and started playing with the insides."

Anyone who was hoping to swap Atari war stories with Kath, "the guy from the videogame band," obviously won't get very far, even though the band is named after an arcade game. Yes, "Crystal Castles" is the residence of She-Ra, Mattel's '80s cartoon heroine. And no, they are not an electro act. ("I don't like elec-

tro," Kath says.) And, no, the band didn't happen by accident. True, "Alice Practice," Crystal Castles' debut 7" on Merok Records, was recorded by mistake, but Kath says a "lazy" journalist misinterpreted that fact and reported it as the group's origin story.

Let's hope the journalists aren't quite so lazy when the band's debut album is released later this month on Last Gang Records. Not that Kath will actually be reading the reviews.



**Graphic Design Nerds?** | Cancer Bats love two things: post-hardcore rock 'n' roll, and Photoshop. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

### HARDCORE

#### Cancer Bats

Avenue Skatepark • Feb 29  
\$12 | At ticketmaster.ca

With songs like "Harem of Scorpions," "Lucifer's Rocking Chair," and "Zed's Dead, Baby," Cancer Bats are our new favourite song title writers. Plus, they're self-confessed "graphic design nerds" who first promoted the band by pasting stencil graffiti around Toronto. It doesn't get more street than that. The Bats will be in town celebrating the impending release of their new album, *Hail Destroyer*, with an evening of furious riffing and throat-shredding vocals, courtesy of lead barker Liam Cormier. Bring lozenges.

### ALT-COUNTRY

#### The Uncas

The Pawn Shop • Mar 1  
\$10 | At the door

Nobody at SEE seems to know what an Uncas is (besides an acronym for University of North Carolina at Asheville), but long-time folk/country scenesters The Uncas must. Otherwise they wouldn't have named their band after one, right? The mysteriously named old-timers join questionably named but believably bluesy newbies Sally's Krackers for a triple-bill of rootsy goodness at The Pawn Shop. Sally's Krackers are also celebrating their CD release, so make sure to get there shortly after doors open (8:30) for their set.

### JAZZ

#### Brett Miles Quartet

Yardbird Suite • Feb 29  
\$10-\$14 | At the door

From New York to Edmonton, saxophonist Brett Miles has shared stages and/or studios with Big Miller, Tommy Banks, Lester Quitau, Ted Curson, Rashied Ali, Karl Berger, Michael Wimberly, Don Cherry, Ivan Neville, phew, hang on, let's take a breath... Jaco Pastorius, Mick Jagger, James Brown, Buddy Miles, and more. There can't be many other—or any other—musicians in town who can stake a claim to a list of collaborators like that. Plus, the guy plays everything from smooth jazz to funk. That's called versatility, folks.



MUSIC PREVIEW · FROM FREETOWN TO OUR TOWN · BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 781 words

# Living Like Refugees

**REUBEN KOROMA HEADS A GROUP OF 12 ALL-STARS FROM THE WAR-TORN WEST COAST OF AFRICA**

SIERRA LEONE'S REFUGEE ALL-STARS

Feb 29 (7:30pm) The Arden (#5, St. Anne St. St. Albert). Tickets: \$45, available through The Arden box office (459-1542) or Ticketmaster (451-8000/ticketmaster.ca).

"I started playing music for a living in 1987, and since that time I haven't had any other job, it's been music all the way," says Reuben Koroma. "One should do the job that one likes. It's not only for money. I like playing music, and when I play music I am the happiest man."

Koroma sounds like a pretty cheerful guy just chatting, his remarks punctuated by frequent chugs of throaty laughter. But his life story would test the sunniest disposition. In 1997, Koroma was forced to flee his home in Freetown, Sierra Leone, a country on the western coast of Africa that suffered through a brutal civil war which lasted from 1991 and 2002 and killed tens of thousands.

"The circumstances were very much terrible—a lot of shootings, bombings, everybody trying to escape. That's why we ran away, because there was no sanity in the country," Koroma says. "It was not a situation where you think of taking something along, because if you took something with you, people would think you had money inside it and you could die for that. We had no option but to leave everything behind and try to escape with our lives."

Koroma and his wife ended up in a refugee camp on the border of neighbouring Guinea. Bereft of their belongings, they turned to the only thing they had left: "When we got to the camp, we made music by just tapping our feet and singing. Then I started to experiment because people liked it. Every time we started to sing, we'd have 10 or 15 people around us and they had a good time. So I decided to look out for musicians and when I found the first musician, he had managed to escape with an acoustic guitar."

Koroma says he managed to reconnect with musicians he had known from Freetown, and his loose collective began to develop a repertoire to lift the spirits of fellow refugees. When militias from Sierra Leone started conducting raids into the camp, Koroma and his new band were relocated to the Sembakouya refugee camp farther into the Guinean interior, home to as many as 40,000 displaced persons. It was here Koroma and his band encountered American filmmakers Zach Niles and Banker White, and Canadian musician/producer Chris Velan.

"They said, 'We're not working for any agency; we are musicians and we

want to listen to your songs,'" Koroma says. "Once they heard us, they wanted to make a documentary film about us and they took us to many refugee camps all around Guinea to play. They took all the footage and organized a documentary film, then they started getting the film into festivals in America. We have very high respect for the filmmakers because we think they are the door-openers of our fortune."

When Koroma and his fellow musicians returned to Sierra Leone a year after the civil war ended in 2002, they were reunited with former colleagues the Emperors Band and the current lineup of Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars was solidified, bringing their number to 12. The eponymous documentary served as a calling card that led to the recording of *Living Like a Refugee*, a sampling of the band's upbeat sound that melds various African folk styles with pop, hip hop, and reggae. Koroma says the diverse sounds reflect his country's multicultural nature. "Sierra Leone is a country that accepts the culture of every person," he explains. "We are very tolerant in our country. All type of music has been accepted in Sierra Leone, so when I was a kid I listened to music from America, music from Britain, music from many



**They Have Overcome** | Koroma and crew have high hopes for Sierra Leone's future after the country's recent election. PHOTO BY JANE RICHEY

many places, so those were all influences."

Lyrical, the songs incorporate the band members' experiences as well as traditional themes to describe the toll of war and greed on their homeland, and the need for peace and justice. Though Sierra Leone is no longer at war, the country still wears the scar of long internecine conflict, occupy-

ing the lowest rank on the Human Development Index, with rampant corruption, poverty, illiteracy, and a life expectancy averaging in the low 40s. All the same, Koroma says he and his bandmates are happy to have their home back.

"We have been very much thankful to God we have been able to achieve peace. An election has just been con-

ducted and the new president [Ernest Bai Koroma] seems to have a zeal to help the people. Sierra Leone has been in darkness for 20 years, but in the last three months our president has electrified our cities, so things are happening in our country. The people are trying to rehabilitate some of the damaged places. There's something going on."

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# Where Are The New Classics?

**HAS THE IPOD GENERATION REDEFINED OUR IDEA OF A "CLASSIC" ALBUM? DOES IT MATTER?**

A photo of Columbus, Ohio's Times New Viking shows the band in the living room of some dingy house that looks straight from a time stamped on my punk-loving dad's old vinyl. They've got the coked-up, spaced-out snarl of the punk rockers my parents knew—a look copped straight from the rock 'n' roll history books.

But despite their nostalgic punk-rock trappings, they're a band pushing forward in new directions and forging new sounds—they might look like the past, but they sound like the future. Their just-released disc *Rip It Off* is totally simple, ecstatic pop music, tweaked for the 21st century and filtered through lo-fi hell, raw as knuckles to the floor. And it's a classic—even if I'm one of the few who thinks so.

It used to be easy to tell a classic album from a non-classic—the classics were the ones everybody owned. If you're between 18 and 30, go down to your parent's basement and dig through the cardboard boxes. (If you're between 45 and 60, go down to your own basement and do the same.) I can pretty much guarantee



**The Vinyl Countdown** | Will you pass on your iPod playlist to your kids? PHOTO SUPPLIED

what you'll find down there: *Rumours* by Fleetwood Mac, a few Led Zeppelin LPs, maybe The Beatles' White Album, *Tattoo You* by the Stones, *L.A. Woman* by the Doors, *Harvest* by Neil Young.

But what happens when my generation's got a paunch and a touch of grey? What are the records our kids will dig up out of our basements (or our archived iTunes playlists)? You forgot *It in People* by Broken Social Scene? LCD Soundsystem? *†* by Justice? If these are the albums that define a generation, why are none of them owned by more than two or

three people I know?

## Look Out, Honey, Cause I'm Usin' Technology

This is the age of personalized mp3 playlists, of Last.fm, of software that determines the ads best suited to your Internet-browsing eyes. The pop-culture icons that reach demigod status in one social niche mean next to nothing in others—where Times New Viking might mean the world to me, the person sitting next to me on the bus might think 2Pac was the last great poet, the guy sitting across the aisle might be a Dillinger Escape

Plan diehard, while the guy next to him might have a framed photo of Devendra Banhart on his wall [Wow, this is one helluva cool bus! —Ed.]—and so the universal love for the John Lennons of the world has evaporated into a fractured realm of subcategories with no collective cultural consciousness. What was the last generation-defining musical event? Maybe Kurt Cobain's suicide? And that was 14 years ago.

The Internet has made it easier to discover music. You can familiarize yourself with the complete discography of an up-and-comer in a matter of hours and call yourself a fan by the end of the day. But the ability to listen to practically any song, any album instantly also led to the fracturing of a once-all-encompassing pop music culture.

Even the musical movements that creep across geographical and social lines—like grunge, punk, or hip hop in the past—don't have the same earth-shattering appeal today: the secluded pockets of listeners who love noise bands like Wolf Eyes and Black Dice, the devoted followers of dubstep and grime, and the tiny social clubs that collect and obsess over obscure lo-fi outsider punk are cult phenomena, not mass movements. (Okay, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake

sell millions of records, but what are the chances that kids in 30 years will come across an old copy of Spears' *Oops!... I Did It Again* and find it speaks to them? Call me a rockist, but I say not likely.)

## Bygone Handwritten Letters

Times New Viking's Adam Elliot put it best in an interview with *Time Out New York* when he said, "Guided By Voices was like our Beatles, and Pavement was like our Kinks."

Being a passionate music fan has never felt lonelier, and yet music means as much to me—and I'd bet to most people—as it ever has. My LP copy of Times New Viking's *Present the Paisley Reich* has the album on one side on the other, the band has taken the time to scrawl out, by hand, the lyrics to every song on the record. They've done this 1,000 times, on every copy of the album.

Although Times New Viking might never have a hope in flaming hell of achieving the mass appeal of the musical icons of the past, it's still pretty encouraging that people will go to great lengths to chase down music in vinyl form from a little-known band from Columbus, Ohio. And it's even more encouraging that band like Times New Viking are out there, giving them a reason to.

MUSIC PREVIEW • NO TIE-DYE ALLOWED • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY | 364 words

# Jammin'... Sort Of

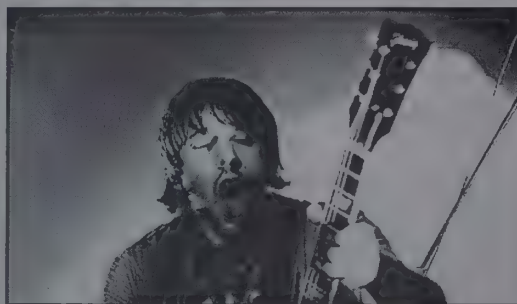
**HALIFAX'S JIMMY SWIFT BAND LIKES TO CUT LOOSE A LITTLE ONSTAGE—BUT THEY'RE REALLY NOT A JAM BAND**

**THE JIMMY SWIFT BAND**  
w/ Johnny Feelgood and Marc Charron, Mar. 1, Starlite Room (10030-102 St.). Tickets: \$12, available at Blackbyrd, Listen, Ticketmaster (451-8000/ticketmaster.ca)

Just about every piece of press I can find on Halifax's Jimmy Swift band refers to them as a "jam band." Then I go to their MySpace page to listen to some tunes and... hey, wait a minute! This isn't jammy at all! It's some kind of slinky rock/electronic hybrid, with bursts of classic rock riffage.

"I hate it when we're called a jam band," says frontman Craig Mercer (no, there's no Jimmy Swift in the band). "It can't help but evoke images of The Grateful Dead and Phish. That term is so connected with those bands that it's become a negative thing for us, because we get tie-dye-wearing hippies coming out to the show, and after a few minutes they're like, 'I fucking hate this.' Because we're not... Oh you know, we're not a happy little jammy band."

Of course, over four records (most recently, 2006's *Weight of the World*)



**Not Wearing His Jammies** | Hippies beware: Jimmy Swift's music might not be to your liking. PHOTO SUPPLIED

and seven years of touring, the quartet have built up a small cross-Canada cult of JSB diehards, so maybe the term isn't entirely inapt. They also "embrace the idea of improvising onstage," as even Mercer will admit, but really, the more interesting aspect of their sound is the way they put chilled-out electronic music into a conventional rock format.

"I grew up on sort of old-school metal," Mercer says, "a lot of Metallica and Guns 'n' Roses. Then in university... I got into dance music and started going to raves all the time. And our keyboard player [Aaron Collier] is also playing a much larger role than he has in the past, and he's

much more into electronic music. Our new album, that he produced, will be much more loop-based and fall more on that side of things."

Mercer, who also runs Halifax live-music mainstay The Marquee Room, credits his hometown's vibrant music scene with fostering JSB's musical fusion. "I'm not sure how or why the scene is so vibrant out here," he says. "I'm very fortunate to program one of the best venues in the country out here, and in the past few months we've had Chromeo and Grandmaster Flash, and Afrika Bambaataa, and The Trews.... There's a culture of music-going here that's really special."

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# education

february 2008

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- Mountain View Gazette
- Okotoks Western Wheel
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**Great West**  
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*Green Roof Project helps improve energy transmission in summer and winter*

# Olds College embraces living laboratories

Imagine small groups of people enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. Dragonflies dance over the gentle rippling leaves as a warm breeze wafts the scent of blossoming plants.

Keeping dreaming, but now use your mind's eye to put that pleasant scene onto the roof of a high school. Yes. On the roof.

It may be startling, but providing green spaces for people is just one of the benefits to be reaped as the Green Roof Project takes shape over the Core High School now under construction as part of the Community Learning Campus (CLC.)

"One of the CLC outcomes is to create a campus that encompasses and promotes environmental sustainability," explains CLC executive director Dot Negropontes.

Among the many ways we're achieving that goal is the roof-top gardens known as green roofs."

## Living garden space

Craig Webber of Group2 Architecture Engineering Ltd., the architectural influence behind the award-winning CLC structures, explains that a green roof is quite literally a living garden space that covers and protects a structure in place of the traditional metal panels or tar and gravel found on almost every commercial or public building.


"The benefits include improved energy transmission in both summer and winter," Webber explains. That means that less summer sun will penetrate the roof and less heat will escape during the winter. "Green roofs also manage the storm water as some of it is retained in the soil."

Students attending Olds High School and Olds College will also find enhanced learning opportunities, because the roofs will provide living laboratories.

*Continued on page 4*




Chelsea Sutherland (left), Sarah Lockyer (centre) and Janine Waldo took on the Green Roofs as part of a third-year assignment in Design Studio 3, part of the Bachelor of Applied Science, Landscape Management major.




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"Environmental sustainability is certainly enhanced, but we're also promoting learning opportunities," says Negroponetes. "High school students will learn the basics, but college students will use the north and south to conduct research on plant varieties suitable for southern Alberta climates."

Group2 involved 20 Olds College students, faculty members and environmental specialists in early design processes.

Negroponetes says college students "blew us away" with the energy and creativity they added. "We've been very fortunate to

## "Environmental sustainability is certainly enhanced."

**DOT NEGROPONTES**  
Executive director

make use of the expertise available on campus," she adds.

Much of that expertise came from Bachelor of Applied Science students Chelsea Sutherland, Sarah Lockyer and

Janine Waldo, who accepted the challenge of completing a third-year design assignment on green roofs with little previous knowledge.

"We started by doing research on a green roof," says Janine Waldo with a smile. "We actually had to learn what they are!"

"We came up with how they [green roofs] could be used especially as a school. Since we're in the horticulture industry — and didn't know much about them — we felt we could help teach future generations."

The five-year research project they've initiated will be a legacy transferred to future students in the applied degree program. The initial research and design conducted by the student trio will serve as a base for other groups who will add layers of detail and assessment as the green roof plots mature.

The two green roofs are each about 120 square metres, Webber says, about the same footprint as the average home. One will be accessible from the high school, the other to all users of the health and wellness centre.



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# Take a master's degree at your own speed

After completing four years of post secondary many people might cringe at the thought of returning to campus every day in hopes of earning their master's and beefing up their educational status. Others are close to completing their undergrad and are unsure of what to do next. Before you throw your hands up in frustration and devote the next few years of your life to catching up on reality television, read on. It doesn't have to be that daunting a task — you just need to know your options.

The University of Alberta offers two master's degrees on a part-time and online basis. The Master of Arts in Communications and Technology (MACT) is a graduate program that is offered almost entirely online. Students from all over the world are enrolled in this program and truly benefit from the convenience and flexibility it offers.

For the more science-minded, the U of A offers a Master of Science in Internetworking (MINT), where classes are held every second weekend, giving people the opportunity to work full time, spend time with their families and allow for flexible travel time for those who are not residents of Edmonton.

The multidisciplinary MACT program offers a variety of outlooks on communications revolving around technologies, such as the Internet. The degree is designed for individuals who seek to gain the skills necessary to lead and manage others with the use of information and communications technologies. The fields that MACT graduates are involved with include education and training, information technology, international and intercultural relations, management, marketing, mass media, new media production, program design and development, public affairs and writing and publishing.

Mary Pat Barry, MACT alumna and communications branch manager for the City of Edmonton, identifies the program as one that has "effectively balanced face-to-face learning opportunities with online distance education technologies to provide a rich and

highly effective learning environment." She goes on to say, "The ability to participate through distance education, provided me with a highly valuable degree of control other programs can't match. I was able to connect to my cohort regardless of times and from locations convenient to me. For a busy professional, this option was invaluable."

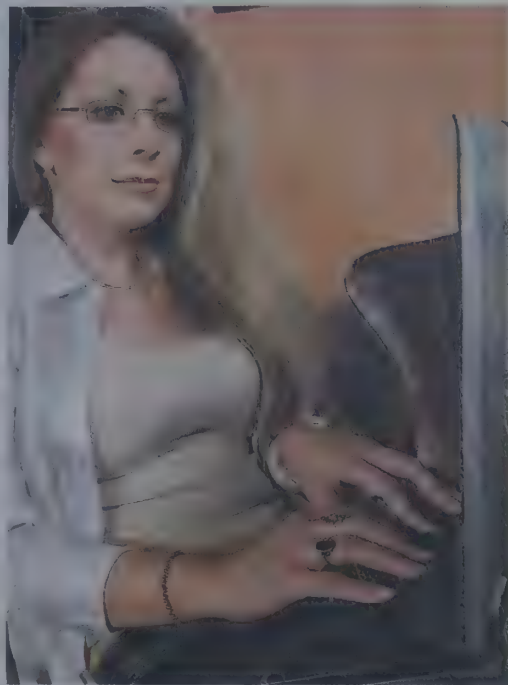
The MINT graduate degree program has a goal to educate students on current Internetworking fundamentals and provide them the management and analytical skills required to develop evolving Internetworking infrastructures and lead project teams. MINT provides a broad understanding of Internetworking principles, familiarity with the organization and structure of the Internet and an appreciation of its technical, business and societal implications.

Gavin Pitchford, the pre-eminent recruiter of talent for Internetworking companies in Canada, said MINT can be the differentiator between the \$40,000 and the \$50,000 entry-level role. He explains, "What happens early in one's career makes a huge difference. Over the span of just 10 years it can mean easily a million dollars."

MACT and MINT also offer opportunities for employers who are seeking a solution to their worker shortage. In a highly competitive job market where employee shortages are a major problem for most companies, promises of a graduate degree paid for as a hiring bonus is an attractive incentive for prospective employees.

Climbing the ladder of success can be tricky for those who have more responsibilities than time to tackle them. Few people are in a position to leave their jobs to study for their master's, so these programs are designed to have flexible schedules and help those who want to gain the knowledge necessary to have that extra edge in the job interview.

Application deadline for MINT is June 1, 2008. Application deadline for MACT is Dec. 15, 2008.



The University of Alberta offers two master's degrees on a part-time or online basis — the Master of Arts in Communications and Technology and the Master of Science in Internetworking.

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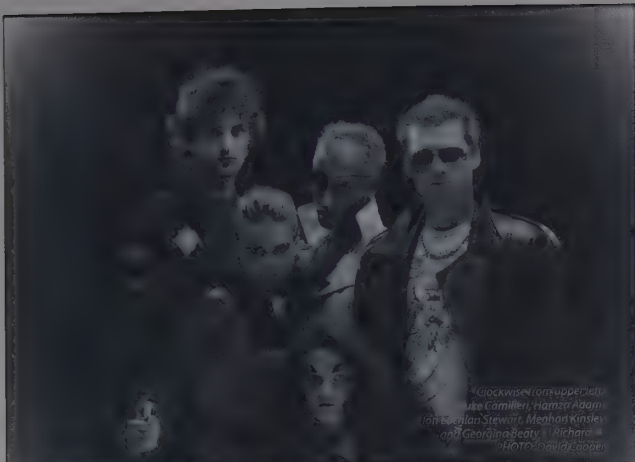
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Tradition is important at Reeves College. The school has earned a reputation for nurturing skilled business professionals since 1961. The faculty and staff strive to provide students with the training and skills necessary for career success.

The college develops programs in consultation with a variety of businesses to ensure that graduates meet industry demands. Students learn current software applications, programs and techniques so they develop marketable skills.

Additionally, industry-experienced instructors teach students about the current job market and increase their chances of employment in their chosen career fields. The free upgrading for alumni ensures that Reeves College grads will always be in demand.

Business programs are the heart of Reeves College's curriculum. For more than 45 years, the college has trained students to excel as administrative professionals. Recently, several new programs were introduced to meet the growing demand for services across a number of industries. The medical office assistant program prepares students to become admitting clerks, medical transcriptionists or billing clerks. The legal administrative assistant program introduces students to the day-to-day practices of a Canadian law office. The paralegal

program provides students with a deeper understanding of the Canadian court system and trains them to be key members of a legal team. Additionally, the oil and gas administrative assistant program prepares students for careers in Alberta's booming industry.

Reeves College is fully accredited by Alberta Advanced Education. The college continuously accepts applications for enrolment in the next session of each certified career program. For more information on programs or to arrange an appointment, call the campus nearest you; Calgary: 403-290-1511; Edmonton: 780-990-1650; Lethbridge: 403-381-4469; Lloydminster: 780-875-3308; or visit the Reeves College website: [www.reevescollege.ca](http://www.reevescollege.ca).



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# Keyano College grows with students

Located in the heart of Fort McMurray, Keyano College is at the centre of the booming oil sands city. The college also serves outlying communities such as Conklin, Janvier, Fort McKay and Gregoire Lake through learning centres, with campuses in Fort Chipewyan and Edmonton.

Keyano College serves more than 3,000 students a year and, from academics to athletics, has something for everyone.

The college recently launched a Bachelor of Education degree in collaboration with the University of Alberta and a social work degree in association with the University of Calgary is coming next fall.

Additionally it offers a breadth of programming from courses in trades and heavy industry, nursing, and visual and performing arts, to the newly added computer games courses. Keyano also provides numerous university transfer options and unique programs like Environmental Technology, and Musical Instrument Repair, the only program of its kind in North America.

Keyano College proudly offers a number of academic upgrading programs, such as Academic Foundations, College Preparation, Preparation for Academic and Career Education and Aboriginal University Transitional Program. The college also offers Mine Operations, Process Operator and Truck Transport

programs, which are unique to Western Canada. Complementing many of the institution's programs is a co-operative education option, which offers students a chance to accumulate paid work experience by alternating academic semesters with work terms in a position relevant to each program.

In addition, the newly inaugurated state-of-the-art, \$56-million Synerude Sport & Wellness Centre will provide training opportunities for community members, students and the region's elite athletes. The centre is in excess of 140,000 square feet, boasting two indoor fields, a three-court hardwood gym, cardiovascular and strength fitness centres and dance and aerobics studios. It is home to sports such as indoor soccer, hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, tennis and basketball and it rivals the best facilities in Northern Alberta.

With significant growth plans in place to meet the training needs of the region, Keyano College is attracting students from around the world. Adding to the excitement, Keyano College secured the bid to host the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) 2008-2009 Men's National Volleyball Championships, slated for March 12-14, 2009. The grand event will attract some of the best volleyball players in the country and provide an unparalleled sports event for the citizens of Wood Buffalo.



Keyano College serves approximately 3,000 students per year and now offers a Bachelor of Education degree in collaboration with the University of Alberta. A social work degree in association with the University of Calgary begins next fall.

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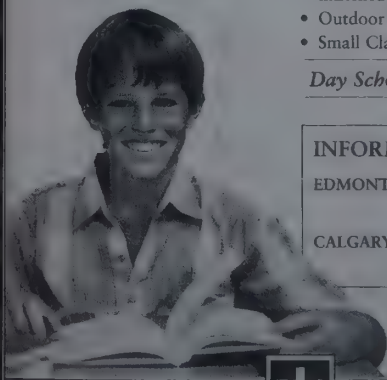
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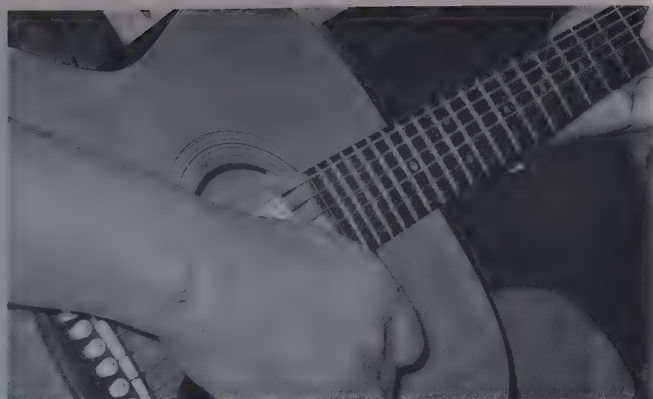
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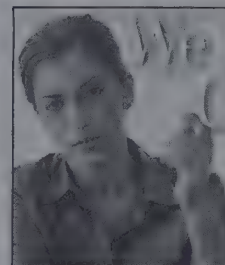
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Camp Rockstar is about having fun, making the most of a summer and living up an unforgettable experience. Camp Rockstar runs for two independent weeks: Aug. 17-22 and Aug. 24-29. Camp Rockstar is for

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- **Applied studies:** Students can earn credit through customized employment or volunteer experiences.



The University of Lethbridge offers students the chance to learn about the discoveries of today and tomorrow during their research and unique learning experiences, such as travel opportunities to destinations like France to further enhance their knowledge base.

*Continued on page 10*



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• **Ample campus activities:** The University of Lethbridge is a place to grow

academically, socially and personally. Students can observe or participate in concerts, drama productions, athletic competitions, debates, cultural awareness events and campus-wide celebrations and become involved with the student government, university committees, extracurricular activities and a variety of clubs around campus.

Also unique about the U of L experience are the campus and city in which the university is set. Nestled in the coulees and overlooking the Oldman River, the U of L campus spans more than 500 acres. The U of L's signature building, University Hall, is a southern Alberta landmark. The 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and

Wellness, a state-of-the-art facility that features a 200-metre indoor track, climbing wall, triple gymnasium and a new fitness centre, is just one of the new additions to the vibrant and growing campus.

Lethbridge, one of Canada's sunniest cities, prides itself as a "campus community." With nearly 82,000 residents, Lethbridge has many attractions. The city's landscape attracts outdoor enthusiasts, who take advantage of the extensive parks and trail system. The city celebrates culture through its theatre companies, museum and numerous art galleries. Located 200 kilometres south of Calgary, Lethbridge is within a short drive of the Rocky Mountains.

Waterton Lakes National Park and the Canada-U.S. border.

For more information, to apply online or to arrange a campus tour, please visit: [discover.ulethbridge.ca](http://discover.ulethbridge.ca)

Students who are completing their high school requirements, or are transferring from a college and apply for the fall 2008 semester by March 1, will be considered for early admission to the University of Lethbridge. Early admission gives students early notice of admission and early access to course selection. Applicants who apply by March 1, 2008, and attend the University of Lethbridge in the fall 2008 semester will be entered to win an iPod Touch.



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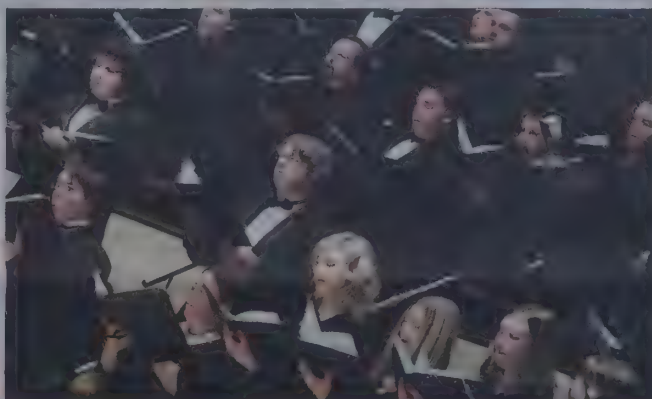


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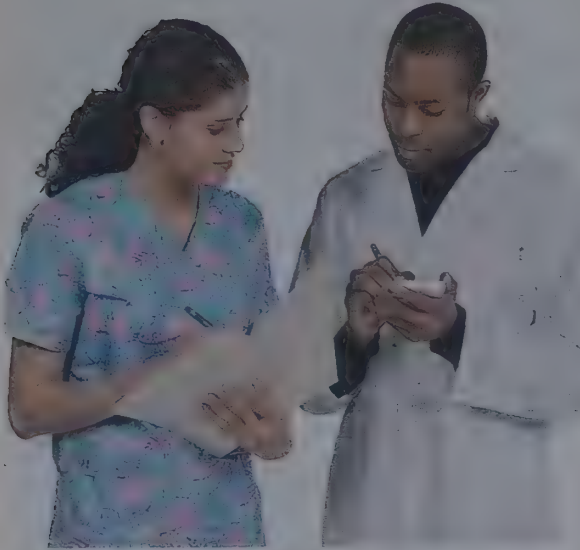
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# NorQuest pilots nursing program

*Foreign-trained nurses learn English and Canadian practices*



NorQuest College's Practical Nurse Diploma for Internationally Educated Nurses gives nurses trained outside of Canada the chance to brush up on their English, as well as learn how Canada's health care system works.

When Oksana Rusnak moved to Canada in November, 2005 with her husband and two children, in addition to her personal belongings, she packed along her hopes, dreams and desires for a better quality of life.

A hospital nurse for 18 years in the Ukraine, Rusnak was eager to restart her profession in a new country. Without proper English, however, she knew that was not going to be easy.

"A friend at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers told me about the NorQuest College program," says Rusnak. "It was the perfect program because it taught me English and about nursing in Canada."

Rusnak is one of 16 graduates of the Practical Nurse Diploma for Internationally Educated Nurses at NorQuest College. The unique, 10-month pilot program provides practical nurses from other countries with the knowledge, clinical judgment, and communication skills required for nursing in Canada. Funding for development of the program has been provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Alberta Employment Immigration and Industry.

Language training instructors, in partnership with practical nurse instructors, offer individualized instruction to improve communication and cross-cultural skills. Interactive classes, labs and workshops target specific student needs to assist with communication challenges and prepare nurses for the practicum and the national PN exam.

Rusnak admits nursing in Canada is different in many ways.

"The knowledge is the same but I found some approaches to be different, especially mental health area," explains Rusnak. "In the Ukraine, I can tell a patient everything will be

fine but in Canada it is called "false reassurance," which I was totally surprised to learn."

Another graduate of the PN for Internationally Educated Nurses program is Min Xi, who practised nursing for 12 years in China before moving her family to Canada in 2000.

The mother of three started language instruction at NorQuest in 2002 before enrolling in academic upgrading and, eventually, the international nursing program.

"I have background in nursing but different health system in Canada," admits Xi. "The fast-track program was perfect because I have nursing knowledge but I just need to learn the language and how the health system works in Canada."

Xi admits she was a little scared at the prospect of nursing in a new country but says NorQuest prepared her well.

"Different country and different health system but I now have the education in Canada to do the job," exclaims Xi. "I am very happy and excited to practise nursing again."

For Xi, that chance came immediately following graduation from NorQuest, when she landed a job at the University of Alberta Hospital.

As for Oksana Rusnak, she says her desire for learning is far from over.

"I plan to study for many years. I want to make my masters in nursing here," says Rusnak. "It's my job and I love it. Believe it or not, I miss the smell of a hospital."

Practical nurses are in high demand. If you are an internationally educated nurse, who is interested in obtaining Canadian nursing credentials, this program could be for you! For more information please contact Justine Light at 644-6764 or visit [www.norquest.ca](http://www.norquest.ca). Classes start in May.

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# Information technology skills in high demand

*NAIT helps students prepare for the work world with its information technology programs*

It is all around us. It governs much of our daily life. Global commerce and travel would come to a sudden halt without it.

From large metropolises to the most remote places on Earth, people depend on information technology (IT) for news, connecting to one another, entertainment and much more. It is puzzling then that IT schools around the world report decreasing numbers of students.

Did the "dot-com" bust of the early 2000s shift public perception of IT jobs? What about headlines of IT jobs being outsourced to foreign countries? Is the economy luring high school students into other high paying positions? Is the millennial generation of students dismissing IT as a serious career choice?

Whatever the reasons, NAIT is among many post-secondary institutions to witness a decline in the number of students applying to IT programs. And that decline is already translating into a serious skills shortage for the growing number of Alberta companies relying on IT knowledge and innovation.

Shifting public mindset about IT careers requires education — disseminating information about exciting, well-paying and thriving career options in any of the more than 50 disciplines comprising IT.

Let's start by dispelling a few myths about IT careers.

**Myth: there are no jobs in IT after the dot-com bust.** Fact: while many IT jobs get outsourced to foreign countries, many others are being created by companies right here in Canada.



NAIT is one of many post-secondary institutions that has noticed a decline in the number of students applying to its information technology programs.

The Information and Communications Technology Council published a report in autumn 2006 that outlined a 2.3 per cent increase in IT positions until 2010. That will mean 58,000 new IT jobs in Canada in the next three to five years.

Sapphire Technologies Canada (formerly CNC Global) reported that Edmonton had

a 171 per cent growth in IT job demand in the second quarter of last year alone.

NAIT Student Placement services had hundreds of IT postings over the past year with employers from as far away as California coming to Edmonton to hire grads from Computer Systems Technology and other IT-related programs.

**Myth: you have to be a math whiz to succeed in IT.** Fact: This was probably more true two decades ago. While problem solving and logical skills are always in demand in virtually any profession, and competency in math is still a prerequisite to enter IT programs at NAIT, today's IT professionals have a myriad of career options to maximize their natural abilities. If you are good with people, are business-minded and enjoy the challenge of creating solutions, you can find your niche within the IT industry. Boredom is a rarity because you are always creating something new, solving problems and innovating.

**Myth: technical skills alone will ensure your success.** Fact: being a "techie" was enough in IT careers not too long ago, but what the industry needs now are skills in teamwork, communication and establishing links between people in organizations.

Women are frequently adept at such tasks, but are under-represented in the IT sector. With half of Canada's work force and talent not involved, the IT sector is missing out on the contribution women can make to its development, direction and identity.

Unless prospective students become more aware of the possibilities of rewarding careers in IT, North American businesses will have but two options: either cut services or import IT skills from abroad.

To learn more about careers in the IT sector, and NAIT's range of IT-related programs, go to [www.nait.ca](http://www.nait.ca).

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Canadian University College president Dr. Andrea Luxton and Education Minister Ronald Liepert sign an agreement allowing education graduates from CUC to become teachers.

## Get a teaching degree at CUC

On Jan. 30, 2008 a memorandum of agreement regarding certification of teachers was signed between Canadian University College and the Ministry of Education in Alberta. Education Minister Ronald Liepert and Dr. Andrea Luxton, president of the university college, signed the memorandum, which allows for graduates of the CUC Bachelor of Education (BED) degree to qualify for initial teacher certification in Alberta. The signing took place at Government House in Edmonton.

CUC is now the sixth teacher preparation institution in Alberta to offer an Alberta degree. The memorandum of agreement allows CUC the right to offer its own degree in education and have the graduates

fully certified in Alberta, the jurisdiction in which they received their teacher education. Previously, students at CUC received their teacher education program and degree through a partner-campus arrangement with Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. While this arrangement has worked well for many years, the CUC School of Education successfully prepared a proposal for its own degree when the opportunity arose in 2003. The new Alberta-based BED degree, approved in 2004, is expecting its first graduates in April, 2008.

The School of Education at CUC is the place to be for future teachers. For further information call 1-800-661-8129 or go online at [www.cauc.ca](http://www.cauc.ca).



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The University of Lethbridge offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (Dramatic Arts) with a major in Technical/Design that will provide students with rewarding careers.

## Enrol in dramatic arts

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The first step on the path to just such a fulfilling career could be a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (Dramatic Arts) with a major in Technical/Design from the University of Lethbridge. Through a combination of academic study and practical experience, students develop knowledge and skills that prepare them to be imaginative, flexible, adaptable and creative.

"We provide a solid undergraduate education in drama and theatre, with faculty, staff and facilities that rival many graduate programs," says Ron Chambers, Department of Theatre & Dramatic Arts chair. "Our graduates are equipped to step confidently into the entertainment industry, graduate studies and a variety of other related professions."

A friendly atmosphere enables students to take the personal and creative risks necessary to advance their craft. "The U

of L offered me something quite simple but unfortunately rare: a sense of community and personal connection. This created the foundation for my approach to dramaturgy," says alumna Amy Strilchuk, assistant dramaturg with Calgary's Alberta Theatre Projects.

The U of L also offers excellent theatre facilities, well-equipped dedicated shops for designing and constructing costumes, props and set pieces as well as a state-of-the-art audio recording lab and lighting/green screen studio. The 25 qualified faculty and staff have worked in the industry — they teach from experience.

Opportunities abound! Small class sizes ensure individual attention. The eight shows per season provide an array of practical experiences. Over four years of study, students could potentially be involved in 32 productions. In addition, qualifying senior level students often have major technical or design responsibilities in the Mainstage and TheatreXtra seasons.

For more information, visit: [www.uleth.ca/ffa](http://www.uleth.ca/ffa), call 403-329-2691 or email [finearts.admissions@uleth.ca](mailto:finearts.admissions@uleth.ca)

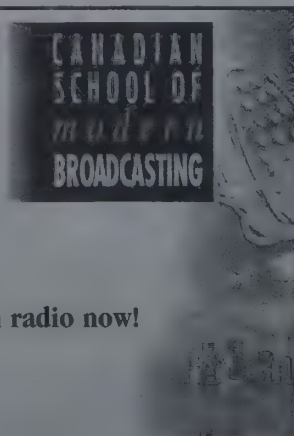
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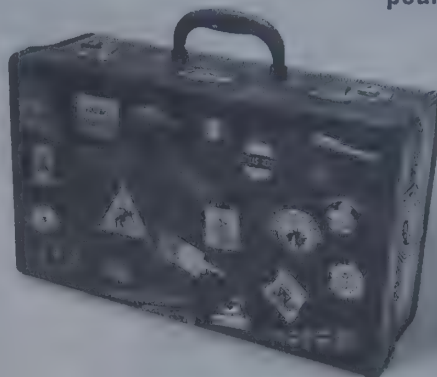
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Not all Athabasca University students volunteer in the Third World, but Melanie Reimer's ability to continue her studies while assisting land mine victims in Albania and Sri Lanka shows how the university enables students to overcome time and distance barriers to simultaneously advance both their post-secondary education and other personal goals.

"I really wanted to work in humanitarian aid," Reimer said. "We are so fortunate in Canada. We don't know the other side. On the news, I saw what was going on in other parts of the world and I wanted to help."

When she completed her undergraduate degree in psychology in 2001, the Victoria, B.C., native travelled to Kosovo, in Serbia, to work. In the years since, she has worked for a number of international organizations such as the UNICEF, CEDA and the World Bank as well as for local governments.

Much of her recent work has been in mine-affected countries, developing, implementing and monitoring programs for the care, support and reintegration of landmine victims.

Inspired by this work to learn more about rehabilitation, Reimer decided to continue her studies at Athabasca University, enrolling in prerequisite course for a planned Master of Science degree in occupational therapy.

"I am thankful to AU for the flexible, independent style of course study," Reimer said. "It allowed me to continue with my work overseas while pursuing further education in an area that I see as being of great significance."

Athabasca University continues to lead in the innovative field of open, online and distance post-secondary education, serving 37,000 students in 87 countries worldwide.

AU offers more than 700 courses in nearly 90 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma and certificate programs in a wide range of arts, science and professional disciplines. Outstanding staff, faculty and tutors support students and contribute to the university's high student satisfaction rating.

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- Aboriginal Pre-Health Care Aide
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- Career Development Certificate
- Correctional Studies Diploma

- Disability & Community Support Certificate

- ■ Diploma
- Early Intervention Diploma
- Early Learning & Child Care Certificate
- Education Assistant Certificate
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- Life Skills & Career Development Coach Diploma
- Life Skills Coach Certificate
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There are three rules to career success.

**Rule 1:** If you have to do something for eight or more hours a day, do what you love.

Many talented individuals are attracted to a career as a graphic designer. But do you know what a good designer does? Graphic designers plan, analyze and create visual solutions for communication problems. They create the most effective ways to communicate in print, electronic and film media using a variety of techniques including colour theory, type, illustration, photography, animation and layout techniques.

Graphic designers develop the overall layout of magazines, newspapers, journals, corporate reports and various publications. They produce promotional displays, packaging, logos, signage and marketing brochures for products, services and businesses. An increasing number of designers also focus their skills on developing material for the Internet, interactive media and multimedia projects.

**Rule 2:** If you choose to do what you love, be the best.

Those who obtain a diploma or degree and have the knowledge and software skills (particularly in website design) will have the widest range of career opportunities. The job market for graphic designers is expected to increase by at least 10 per cent over the next 10 years.

Keen competition for jobs is expected, especially among those with Internet and animation skills, as demand is increasing for interactive media — websites, video games, cellphones, MP3 players and other

related technology.

In addition to post-secondary training in graphic design, creativity, communication and problem-solving skills are crucial. Designers must be creative-on-demand and be able to communicate their ideas visually, verbally and in writing. They must have an eye for detail.

They must be well read, open to new ideas and influences and quick to react to changing trends. The abilities to work independently and under pressure are equally important traits.

People who choose to work in this field require self-discipline to complete projects on their own, budget their time and meet deadlines and production schedules.

**Rule 3:** If you want to be the best, be a Guru grad.

Guru Digital Arts College is a government-licensed, private vocational school offering a full-time, six-month diploma program where students learn graphic design software, written and verbal communication skills, traditional art and multimedia design techniques on 24-inch iMac computers, which offer both Mac and PC platforms. "The Digital Media Producer Diploma Program is concentrated and intense," said program director, Dale Hudijk. "It was designed to challenge our students over a six-month training period. They have highly developed skills when they graduate and with determination, they can work anywhere — and they do."

Guru was also in the news recently when it announced that an iPod Touch is now being provided to each student as a



Students at Guru Digital Arts College learn graphic design, software and written and verbal communication skills for both PC and Mac platforms.

learning tool for video podcast tutorials and digital textbooks.

"Our students are learning how to create media for the Internet and the growing popularity of handheld devices like the iPod make it a valuable tool for them to have access to," commented president Win Gies.

With its small class size, creative atmosphere, dynamic curriculum, expert instruc-

tion and downtown location, Guru Digital Arts College offers exceptional value for your educational dollar.

Student financial assistance is available to qualified applicants. The next intakes start April 14, 2008 and October 14, 2008. For more information contact Sherisse Burke at 429-GURU (4878), e-mail: [sherisse@gurudigitalarts.com](mailto:sherisse@gurudigitalarts.com) or visit [www.gurudigitalarts.com](http://www.gurudigitalarts.com).



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# eCampus Alberta brings class to your home

*Consortium of 15 Alberta colleges and technical institutes offers 30 programs online*

If Kim Dimmock had not heard about the online post-secondary programs offered through eCampusAlberta, the Olds College Agricultural Finance student might not have chosen to pursue a post-secondary education.

Dimmock works full time, has two children ages eight and four and assists her husband with running the family farm. She says a traditional, classroom-based program would not have worked for her.

"If it were not for eCampusAlberta and the online courses offered through Olds College, I would not be able to educate myself and earn my diploma, which has not only helped me with my farm business but has also opened up a whole new area of employment possibilities," says Dimmock, an Agricultural Finance student who works on her courses online from her farm 70 kilometres east of Edmonton.

"eCampusAlberta has been awesome to work with. The support staff were wonderful when I first started and helped me set up and log-in. It is very user friendly," Dimmock says.

eCampusAlberta is a consortium of 15 Alberta colleges and technical institutes that facilitates access to high quality online learning opportunities. The partnership enables students to enrol in more than 30 provincially accredited online certificate, diploma and applied degree programs and 300 courses offered by the member institutions.

And the popularity of online learning is growing rapidly. A Statistics Canada report released in October, 2007 stated that 30 per cent of Alberta adults used the Internet in 2005 for an educational purpose. Across Canada, 26 per cent of adults reported using the Internet for an educational purpose while 80 per cent of the country's full- and part-time students used the Internet for some aspect of their studies.

eCampusAlberta, which just marked its fifth anniversary in December, experienced its strongest year of growth in 2006/07. Last year, there were 5,189 registrations in courses offered through eCampusAlberta, an increase of 45 per cent over the previous year's 3,451 registrations. More than 7,000 registrations are forecast for 2007/08.

Visit [www.ecampusalberta.ca](http://www.ecampusalberta.ca) for more information about eCampusAlberta courses and programs and a complete list of member institutions.



Whether you live out on the family farm or right in the city's downtown core, eCampus Alberta can help you earn one of 30 provincially accredited online certificates, diplomas and applied degree programs.

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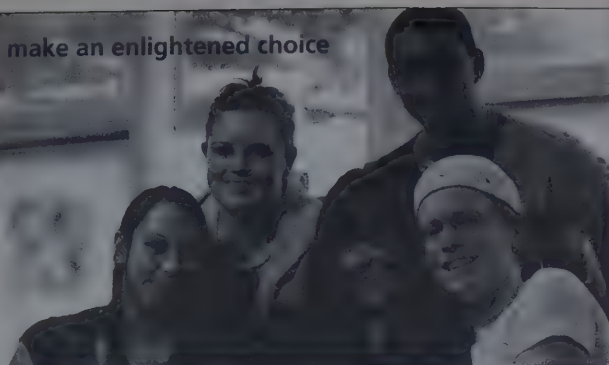
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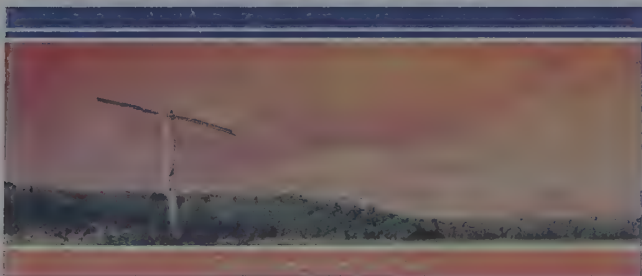
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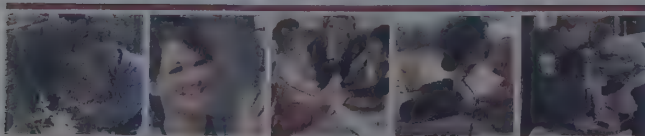
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Red Deer College offers a wide variety of certificate, diploma and apprenticeship programs, as well as transfer and collaborative degrees. The college also has a thriving social scene.

## Find your niche at RDC

Red Deer College (RDC) is college as you always imagined it would be — great programs, great people, and a great campus — all right in the heart of central Alberta. RDC is Alberta's most comprehensive college, offering a wide variety of certificate, diploma and apprenticeship programs as well as distance learning and continuing education options. Want to get a university degree? You can start your degree at RDC and choose to transfer after two years or take part in one of our collaborative degrees and we'll bring the university to you! Whether you want to be a movie director or a teacher, a nurse or a pipefitter, whether you've already decided your future or are still exploring your options, RDC has the program for you.

We know that the cost of a post-secondary education can be daunting. We want you to be able to enjoy your studies and still get a top quality education, so RDC offers a huge range of scholarship and award opportunities, not to mention a guaranteed scholarship for every entry-level student with an average of 85 per cent or higher. You've worked hard to get this far, you should be rewarded!

At RDC, education is only half the experience. Getting a quality education is really important but there are other things in life, right? While you're here you'll enjoy a fabulous range of social activities and support services to ensure your time at RDC really is the time of your life.

*Continued on page 21*



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# College community Continued from page 20

Hang out with your friends in one of the restaurants or lounges. Cheer on (or play on!) one of our athletics teams at a game or join one of dozens of on-campus student clubs. Need a place to live? Do you have kids? Special needs? No problem. We want you here at RDC and have all the support services you need to ensure your experience is a great one.

RDC was built around the idea that community is important and a sense of community is exactly what you get when you come to RDC. Our classes are small, our learning approach hands-on, our instructors friendly and the campus welcoming. Our goal is always to make sure you feel at home — even as the campus continues to grow. And we're definitely growing! Our

expansion plan, *Building Communities Through Learning*, is designed to ensure we can continue to meet the growing demands of our students for increased programming in health, business, visual arts, manufacturing and trades. Included in the next phase of development, scheduled for completion in the next couple of years, will be a state-of-the-art Centre for Regional Sport & Wellness that will offer a range of wellness and fitness programs ensuring all our students have the chance to keep their bodies as healthy as their minds.

So when you're thinking college, think RDC. College as you always imagined it would be. We look forward to welcoming you to the time of your life. Visit [www.rdc.ab.ca](http://www.rdc.ab.ca) for more information.

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in Las Vegas.

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Photo by  
**M.C. College Student Lawna Gorham**  
North American Student Hairstylist of the Year Finalist  
Contessa Student/Apprentice Stylist of the Year Finalist

<b>Red Deer</b> 5008 - 50 Street (403) 342-1110	<b>Calgary</b> 1023 - 7th Avenue S.W. (403) 290-0051	<b>Edmonton</b> 10018 - 106 Street (780) 429-4407
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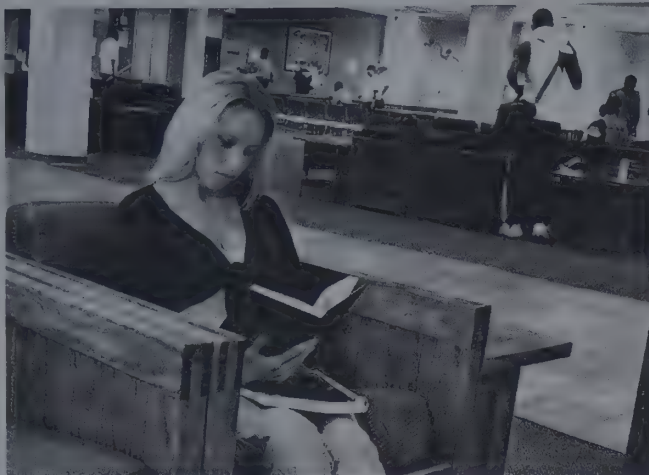
# Opportunities abound at Augustana

Augustana, a faculty and campus of the University of Alberta, offers a memorable, life-changing education through small classes, one-on-one attention from professors, a challenging and innovative curriculum founded on the liberal arts and sciences and experiential learning in international and wilderness settings.

Located in the beautiful community of Camrose (100 kilometres southeast of Edmonton), Augustana has about 1,000 students enrolled in degrees in the Arts, Sciences, Management in Business Economics and Music with more than 30 areas of study.

Our students come to us from all over Canada and the world for a lot of reasons. They are drawn by our internationally-recognized U of A degrees, our friendly residence-based campus and our extensive scholarship program. Some of them are looking for an opportunity to shine in athletics or the fine arts, or because they want to take part in transformational international study and outdoor education trips. Still others are looking for a welcoming place to start their university career, where professors and staff take the time to get to know them individually and where the friendships made last a lifetime. We at Augustana are proud to provide these things and more to our students.

Our students, in return, have gone on to make us proud. Augustana graduates can be found in professions such as medicine, dentistry, law and education; others have pursued masters' and doctoral study in some of the most prestigious universities in the world. Many more have found satisfy-



Augustana, a faculty and campus of the University of Alberta, offers small classes and one-on-one attention from professors in the liberal arts and sciences.

ing employment in research, government and the private sector. Our alumni continue to live up to Augustana's mission by engaging life with intellectual confidence and imaginative insight, equipped for leadership and service and committed to the betterment of their world.

We are excited about what the future holds for new students who will step foot on our campus for the first time this fall.

They will be arriving at Augustana at a remarkable time in our history. Construction is under way on the \$30-million Augustana Forum project that will see a new state-of-the-art library, student spaces, science and computer labs and administrative offices on our campus by the end of 2008. Construction will begin soon on a performing arts centre that will benefit our musicians, artists and actors. We were

recently accepted as the first Canadian member of the prestigious Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, the leading advocacy group for public liberal education in North America. Our professors are being awarded research grants and teaching awards at an unprecedented rate. And our students are reaping the benefits of a small campus environment with big ambitions.

So what kinds of things can you expect if you decide to pursue a degree at Augustana?

- First-rate academic programs to prepare you for life beyond university;
- A close-knit, diverse community of students from all over Alberta, Canada and the world;
- Comfortable residences with plenty of space available every year;
- Talented, accessible professors and researchers who are dedicated to fostering the student experience;
- Unique opportunities for hands-on learning on campus, nationally, and internationally; and
- Activities outside of class that give you the chance to build your resume, learn more about your interests, make a difference in the community and develop lasting friendships.

If this sounds good to you, please let us know. You can find out more at our website, [www.augustana.ualberta.ca](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca), or by calling us at 1-800-661-8714. We would be happy to talk with you about your dreams for your education and your goals for the future. We hope you will come to believe, as we do, that Augustana can help you make those dreams a reality.

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Our graduates possess the confidence, determination, and capability to transform business. It's no wonder that Maclean's magazine ranks UNBC the best small university in western Canada and fourth nationwide.

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# Bow Valley College focuses on early years

Few careers are more necessary and rewarding than teaching.

While preparing youth for their future, teachers participate in each child's development and become a part of a young person's life.

Bow Valley College (BVC) gets individuals ready to start their careers in the education field, offering early learning and childcare programs.

A one-year certificate prepares learners to work in childcare settings with young children, while the two-year diploma qualifies learners as front-line caregivers or supervisors. Both programs are offered part-time, with some courses available online. An integrated version is available for English-as-a-second-language learners.

"Working with children can be an amazing experience," says Becky Kelley, BVC's program co-ordinator for Development, Education, and Support Studies in the Health and Community Care Department.

"Children can be so open and uninhibited. You can really have fun with them and enjoy seeing the results."

Early learning and childcare is considered one of the hottest jobs among careers requiring a college education, according to a 10-year employment forecast recently released by Calgary Economic Development. Almost 3,000 more early childhood educators and assistants will be needed within the Calgary business district alone.

Kate Eldstrom is one of the many successful BVC graduates, working in her chosen field of early childhood education. In fact, 100 per cent of graduates from this BVC program find work in

**"Children can be so open and uninhibited. You can really have fun with them and enjoy seeing the results."**

BECKY KELLEY  
Program co-ordinator

their field.

She's now a preschool teacher in Calgary and is grateful for the education she earned at BVC.

"The instructors at BVC have an understanding of my needs as an adult learner," Kate says.

"They are so good at assisting the student with putting theory into practice and relating theory to real-life situations."

"Having the knowledge I gained from BVC, I was more than prepared to start working in a preschool teaching position."

And while she's in the labour force contributing to the economic development of Calgary, she's reaping the rewards of educating children.

"It is a rewarding career," Kate says. "It gives back to you each day as you watch the children grow from learning to hold a pencil to draw and writing their letters."

For more information on BVC's early learning and childcare programs, please visit [www.bow-valleycollege.ca](http://www.bow-valleycollege.ca) or call us toll-free at 1-844-4-BVC-NOW (1-866-428-2669). Funding is available for qualified applicants.



Bow Valley College instructors help students put theory into practice in their certificate programs for early learning and childcare.

the summer camp... that doesn't suck

# CAMP ROCKSTAR

For Ages 11 - 17  
August 17 - 22 & August 24 - 29

Camp Rockstar is a unique summer music experience unlike any other in Alberta. Presented by Visionary College, Camp Rockstar is a camp for musicians and singers ages 11 - 17 who want to learn how to rock out with new friends! This year Camp Rockstar runs on two weeks. August 17 - 22, and August 24 - 29. Campers will record a song, play a concert, take home a souvenir T-shirt and receive a compilation CD.

And check out our 18+ Classic Rock & Blues weekend camp as well! That's for adults only!

[www.camprockstar.ca](http://www.camprockstar.ca)



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Staff and students from all six M.C. College Group schools got the chance to see the best in the hairstyling and esthetics business during a trip to the North American Hairstyling Awards in Las Vegas. The college gives students the chance to learn from industry leaders.

## Partner up for a career at M.C. College

*Esthetician and hairstyling careers are exciting*

Last July, more than 70 staff and students from all six M.C. College Group schools across Western Canada arrived in Las Vegas for the North American Hairstyling Awards. The NAHAs are the equivalent of the Oscars for the hair industry and M.C. College Group sent all of the students from the June enrolment to experience the event first-hand.

The event was especially exciting as M.C. College Winnipeg student Lawna Gorham was a top-five finalist in the coveted "Student Hair Stylist of the Year" award. Hosted by *Entertainment Tonight's* fashion guru Steven Cojocar, the awards featured a spectacular show with internationally renowned stylists' work. The students were able to mingle with the best stylists from around the world and gain an insight into the amazing and exciting career they are training for. Besides the awards show, the students were privy to NAHA related classes that will help them in the competition next year.

One of the goals of the trip was to create an exciting impression of the industry for

new students. M.C. College believes in training students to succeed. The best way to teach success is by observing successful people. What better exposure can there be, than at the pinnacle of industry success, the North American Hairstyling Awards?

M.C. College carries that philosophy throughout its entire training of estheticians and hairstylists. From its directors to its instructors, M.C. College provides students with opportunities to learn from successful industry leaders. The success of past graduates is shared with the current students on a regular basis. These graduates, now salon owners, are "partners-in-training" with the college. They offer their time to speak to students regularly about their successes and challenges. They offer demonstrations in latest trends and events at their salons. And they provide feedback in curriculum development for the college to better prepare students for industry. These industry partnerships make M.C. College graduates sought after employees at salons and spas throughout Canada. Visit [www.mccollege.com](http://www.mccollege.com).



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Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Theatre Design – Apply by February 1

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[www.ualberta.ca/drama](http://www.ualberta.ca/drama)

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# Scholarships available for almost any program

There are thousands of scholarships, awards and grants available to help finance your education. Many scholarships are awarded for good grades, especially in the core subjects. However, others are awarded for athletic involvement, leadership, community service, area of interest and the institution you plan on attending.

## Tips for finding more scholarships:

Talk to your parents to see if they are members of any clubs or other organizations. There are lots of scholarships provided by specific organizations for their members.

Talk to relatives to find out if they know any employers or community groups that offer private scholarships for relatives.

Talk to your high school guidance counselor to see if any scholarships are available through your high school or from

other community groups.

Check with the post-secondary institution you plan to attend. Many have a list of separate entrance and regular scholarships for their students.

Do an on-line search using a free search tool like Studentawards.com.

Compile a list of potential scholarships, the deadline dates, requirements and application processes.

## Apply

Complete a scholarship application for the institution you plan to attend. This may be online, or hard copy. Check to ensure you have filled out all the forms necessary.

To actually take home the money you need to write a strong application that addresses the needs of the organization that is giving away the money.

Keep your applications ordered by the deadline date and give yourself plenty of time to complete them and send them in well before the due date.

Keep letters of recommendation and transcripts on hand so you don't have to obtain new ones every time they are required for an application.

Make copies of your completed applications before sending them in and file them in folders labelled with the deadline date and the mailing address and phone number of the scholarship provider.

Call before the deadline to see if your scholarship application was received. If it got lost in the mail, you still have an extra copy you can send in. Most scholarship deadlines are strictly enforced, even if you have a sad story to tell about why you missed it.

*Continued on page 26*

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Inquire about busing from your neighbourhood.

**Open House events**

Senior High Campus (Grades 10 - 12) 14304 - 109 Avenue	Northeast Campus (Preschool - Grade 9) 5940 - 159 Avenue	West Campus (Preschool - Grade 9) 14345 McQueen Road
<b>Monday, March 17</b> 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Tuesday, March 18</b> 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	<b>Wednesday, March 19</b> 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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## If Music is an important part of your life...

### The Department of Music Offers:

- ♦ Bachelor of Music degrees with majors in Performance, School Music, Composition and Theory, Music History, and World Music with preparation for music education and graduate study. There are also two five-year combined degree programs with the Faculty of Education. Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education (Elementary), Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education (Secondary), and two four-year degree programs offered by the Faculty of Education. Bachelor of Education (Elementary - minor in Music), Bachelor of Education (Secondary - major or minor in Music)
- ♦ Masters and Doctoral programs comprising studies in Choral Conducting, Composition, Ethnomusicology, Musicology, Performance, Theory, and Wind Band Conducting

Deadline for 2008/2009 undergraduate admission applications and audition applications is **May 1**. For information regarding programs and available scholarships, contact: **The Chair, Department of Music, 3-82 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2C9, Telephone: (780) 492-0602, Fax: (780) 492-9246, Website address: <http://www.ualberta.ca/music>**

**Deadline 2009/2010 graduate admission applications ■ January 5, 2009.** In-person auditions highly recommended, and required for residents of Alberta. All supporting documentation including transcripts, references, and audition and assistantship application forms must be received by January 15, 2009. For additional information regarding programs and available scholarships contact: **The Graduate Coordinator, Department of Music, 3-82 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2C9, Telephone: (780) 492-0603, Fax: (780) 492-9246, Website address: <http://www.ualberta.ca/music>**



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# Alberta College of Art + Design

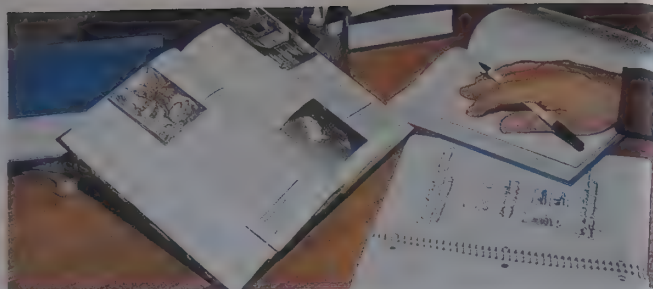
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ALBERTA COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN

ACAD



Dedicating yourself to your school work, as well as your extra-curricular activities will help keep you in good standing while your scholarship application is being evaluated.

## Quality over quantity *Continued from page 25*

### The essay

Write that essay, no matter how tedious it may seem.

Give yourself plenty of time before the deadline.

Before you start, read the directions carefully and talk it over with a family member, a friend, teacher, or counselor.

It's better to go for quality, rather than quantity. Don't repeat yourself.

Watch your language. Make it clear and concise, without any slang.

Review your essay. Read it aloud. Refine it. Read the directions again to make sure it is on mark. Have someone proofread it for you. Keep it on file, you might be able to use that essay, with a few changes here and there, for another scholarship.

### Get the money

Make sure you meet all the requirements to receive the money, such as full-time enrolment, maintaining residency, institu-

tion you are attending etc.

If you move, advise the scholarship donor of your new address.

If you are required to attend awards ceremonies, luncheons, etc., be there, be gracious and dress appropriately.

Thank the donor, when appropriate, after receiving your award.

### Maintain your scholarship potential

Keep your marks, athletics, leadership, volunteer work at an outstanding level and continue to look for scholarships as you progress through your studies.

Finally, believe in yourself and in your chances of winning a scholarship. Hard work and time spent on the scholarship process will pay off eventually. Keep your chin up and think about how great the reward will be if you can land even one of the scholarships you're trying for!

*Source — Government of Alberta*

## What kind of university experience do you want?



### Do you want to:

- Learn from practicing artists and scholars?
- Get hands-on experience combined with academic study?
- Use superior facilities and equipment?

Build a career behind the scenes in theatre or film . . . .

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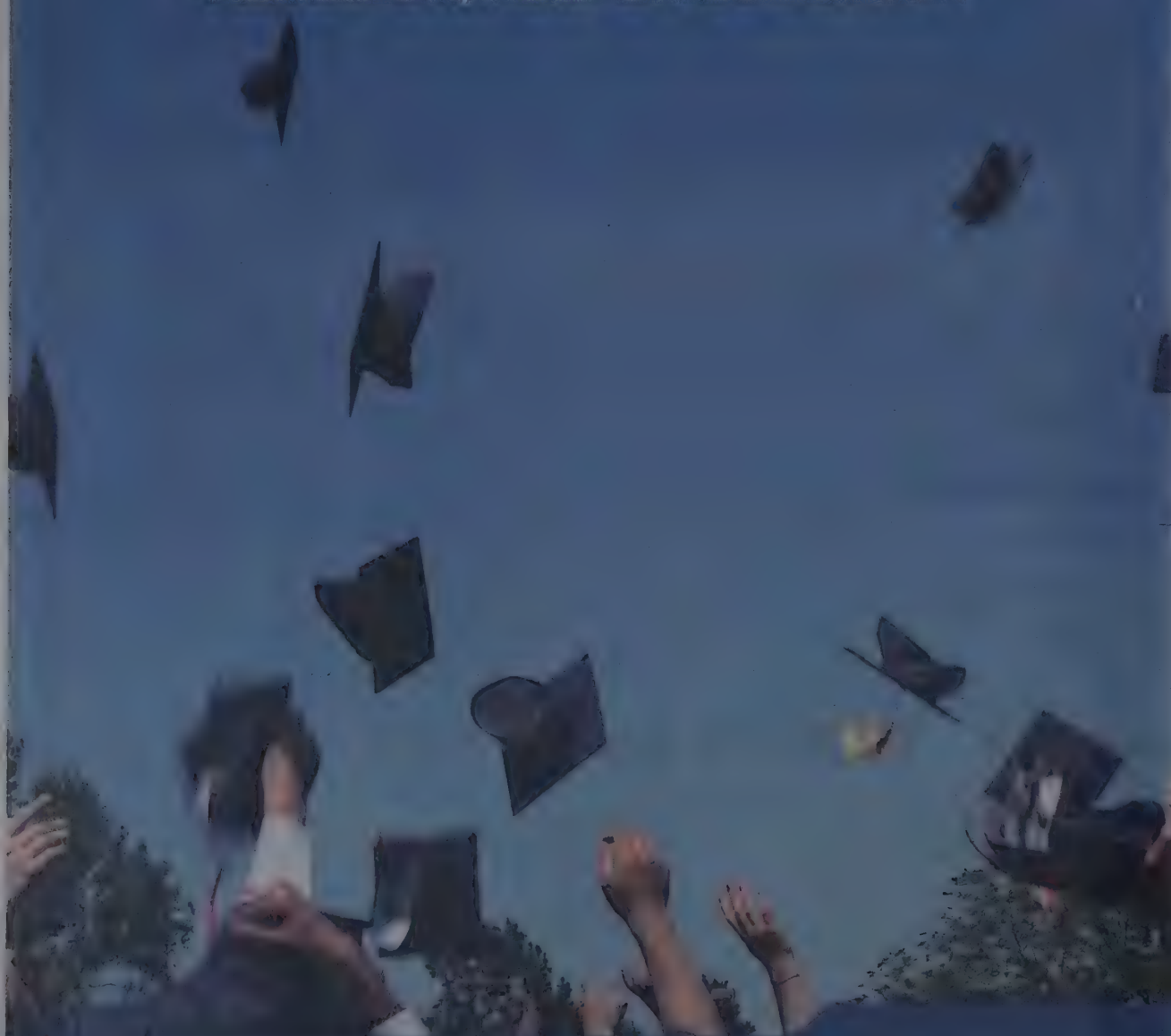
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## MUSIC BRIEFS

### ROCK

**LOUD IS NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD**  
HOT LITTLE ROCKET  
w/ Mohawk Lodge, The Rocky Fortune, Mar 1. The Velvet Underground (1003-102 St). Tickets: \$10 at the door  
"LOUD" is Aaron Smelski's musical modus operandi.

But the soft-spoken guitarist doesn't give off a rock 'n' roll vibe. In fact, calling from his Calgary office, he's positively demure. One wonders how he got along famously abrasive engineer Steve Albini, with whom his band Hot Little Rocket recorded their third album, *How To Lose Everything*, last year at Albini's Chicago studio.

*How To...* is a bit of an anachronism: two guitars, bass, and drums, a throwback to 1950s-style alt-rock in a Calgary music scene that's becoming increasingly eclectic.

"No one's doing rock music now—it's all 12 people onstage with banjos and ukuleles," Smelski says. "My friends and I jokingly call it 'dorkestra.' Not that it's bad music—there are some great bands out there doing that sort of thing. In Calgary there's Jane Vain and Woodpigeon, and they're fantastic. But it seems like we've put out this rock album at the least fashionable time."

Smelski also has another band with his former bandmate Sheila Mann from '90s Calgary Britpoppers Lotus Galaxy, and Max Pahl (late of local post-punkers The Floor). It's a "Mary Chain/My Bloody Valentine thing," Smelski says—which presumably means it's plenty noisy. "I don't know if I'm a dinosaur," he concludes, "but I like loud guitar, and that doesn't go well with glockenspiels and ukuleles."

MATTHEW HALLIDAY

### FREAK-FOLK

**HE CAN'T HELP IT—MUSIC'S IN HIS BLOOD**  
TIPPY AGOGO  
w/ Bill Baume, Tim Folkmann and more, Mar 5. New City Soboruts (10081 Jasper Ave). Tickets: \$12 at the door

Tippy Agogo has had, in his own words, "a weird career."

His music is usually classified as folk, but that's really for lack of anything better to call it. Part of Edmonton's budding folk/punk scene in the mid-'80s with such luminaries as k.d. lang, SNFU, and The Pursuit of Happiness's Moe Berg, Agogo's own work has followed a less commercially rewarding but far more fascinating course. His newest record, *Creep Forward* (produced by Daryl Neudorf, who's worked with The Sadies and Neko Case), is a hodgepodge of musical flavours and traditions, a record that seems to follow no throughline but its creator's own whims.

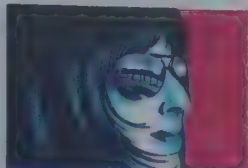
"Music comes out of not only upbringing, but genetic memory," says Agogo, after reciting off a lengthy list of the nationalities in his lineage. "Which I think is attached to the soul. People talk about the soul—well, why does a Doberman run the way it does? I trained Dobermans when I was a kid, and it was terrible, terrible, how they trained them to be show dogs or guard dogs.

They're running dogs, and you can't just put a fence around it and expect it to be a guard dog. Well, I can't help but follow my own instincts wherever they take me." Agogo pauses and laughs. "So I'm like a running dog."

MATTHEW HALLIDAY

ROAD STORIES • BLAZING VANS • 1999 words

## Tourmobile From Hell



EAR TO THE ASPHALT ANN VRIEND  
**SKID ROW NEVER SHOULD HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR TOUR BUS—OR AT LEAST CHOSEN A FIREPROOF REPLACEMENT**

Heavy metal band Skid Row has been rocking the world since the 1980s. Despite some infamous onstage incidents involving former frontman Sebastian Bach—notably, the accidental donning of a t-shirt emblazoned with an anti-gay slogan—the band has enjoyed much success, maintaining "we have our own tour bus" status for quite some time.

But, explains bassist Rachel Bolan, in 2001 the band "decided to go 'old-school,'" and instead of taking a tour bus, the band decided to travel the U.S. by van.

"Though after a few days of that

we were like, you know 'This is not fun,'" Bolan laughs. "So we said, 'Let's not go with a bus, and just get an RV.'" Not quite touring "on the skids," but definitely a more comfortable upgrade.

"I called a friend of mine," Bolan continues, "and he said he took his family to Disney World once a year and the rest of the time his RV just sits there, so we took our van back and borrowed his RV. Four hours into the first drive we got a flat tire, and we're like, 'Here we go: it starts.'"

Bolan pauses. "But we didn't know how bad it was actually going to get. 'Within a couple of weeks we ended up blowing out every double tire on this RV. Eventually we ended up in Florida, and after the show we were about five minutes down the road from our hotel, and our singer Johnny goes, 'I smell smoke! Do you guys smell smoke?'"

"I was driving and I was like, 'It's probably just a Florida brushfire.' The crew guys were in a truck behind us and Johnny says, 'No, man, it's really strong'—and just as he said that all our cellphones started ring-

ing; the crew was trying to get in touch with us, and I thought, 'That's weird.' And then Johnny just yells 'We are on fire!'"

"So I pulled onto the shoulder of the road, into the grass, and we look in the back; thankfully we had all been sitting up front because the back lounge was just engulfed in flames." Always listen to the singer, I say.

Bolan continues. "We grabbed whatever we could and ran onto the side of the road. We found an extinguisher that was on the RV, but it was, of course, empty. So a couple people pulled over and gave us their fire extinguishers. We heard sirens in the distance, but we got the fire out with only two small extinguishers. But when we turned away, suddenly we felt this blast of heat. It was just ablaze again—like, flames shooting about 20 feet over the top of my friend's RV." Bolan chuckles.

"What's funny is my friend had actually joined us on tour for about a week, and he had just taken a cab to the airport to fly back home. I'm standing there watching his RV go

up in flames—and this is a guy I've known since I was about 12 years old. I'm wondering how I'm going to tell him..."

"Luckily all the gear was in the truck with the crew, and eventually someone came to pick us up, and we all jump in his car to go get another van." Bolan laughs weakly. "To add insult to injury, on the way we were listening to the local radio station, and the DJ goes, 'Hey, someone just called in and reported that Skid Row's RV has burned to the ground!' We got to our next show and I called my friend and said, 'I have good news and bad news. Good news is you don't have any more payments on your RV!' Pause. And the bad news is... it's, ah, in cinders."

So, what lesson did Bolan take away with him from the experience? "Basically I recommend to any band that if you have the opportunity to take a tour bus, take it."

Skid Row plays the Edmonton Event Centre on February 29. Apparently they will be arriving via non-borrowed commercial aircraft.

## SEEN IT LIVE • GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK

**MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING** • Starlite Room • Feb 22  
**HOLY FUCK**

Holy Fuck kept the mood set to "Dance Party" for most of their Saturday night show at the Starlite, which suited the crowd just fine.

It was everything the hype surrounding the band promised: two guys (Brian Borcherdt and Graham Walsh) hunched over their mixers, plugging in and plugging out a pawn shop's worth of old Casios, while drummer Brad Kilpatrick and bassist Matt McQuade kept up the rhythmic backbone. HF aren't a band to please dance music purists, and certainly not one to please rock 'n' roll purists either, but they probably couldn't care less—they please the hell out

of everybody else. The set was only an hour long, and HF could have played until closing time. Few would have complained.

The crowd reaction to opener A Place To Bury Strangers was more lukewarm, but I loved 'em. The Brooklyn trio brand themselves the "loudest band in New York," and sitting here almost 24 hours after the show, fretting about permanent hearing damage because my ears still feel like they're stuffed with cotton, I can't find cause to disagree.

At volumes like that, it's tough to judge things like, say, songcraft, but the sheer bracing noise they produced (and the screeching guitar freakouts of frontman Oliver Ackermann) recall the sinister sounds of '80s goth, as filtered through

'80s shoegaze. A must-see band next time they're in town—but for the love of God, bring earplugs.

MATTHEW HALLIDAY

for punk bands like the Intensives, moshed to hardcore and metal outfits like Die Daily and the John Spinnaker Project, and danced to rappers like The Joe.

When scenes mix, bands that usually play to crowds of 30 finally get the chance to step up their game for a crowd of 200, and only at a festival this big could a rapper be as intense on the mic as a metal or hardcore band in front of their stacks. Hopefully Bust-A-Lung will keep the ball rolling that started with last year's Oak & Elm Fest—that is, assuming promoters have the guts to put as diverse a range of bands as this on the same bill weekend after weekend.

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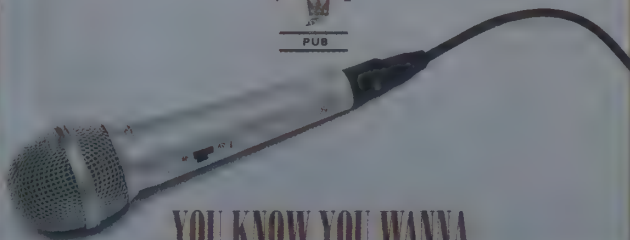
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...YOU KNOW YOU WANNA

## CD REVIEWS



### THE LAST DEAL

Berdache

(Roast)

★★★★☆

Berdache is a First Nations word meaning a person of two spirits, or two genders. It's an appropriate title for The Last Deal's first full-length release, given that their music seems to spring from two wholly different impulses. Let's call it prog-emo. (Progeemo?)

Yeah, that's a goddamn horrible name for a disc that's actually pretty damn great—but still, the band's lengthy songs and ambitious musicality are suggestive of a proggy sensibility, and singer James Stewart's tendency to get all screamily carried away is more than a little reminiscent of first wave emo-punk bands like Drive Like Jehu. But don't be scared away by that. The Last Deal have been one of the best bands in town for years now—even if most people weren't aware of it, since they never officially released anything until last year. Their years playing together are evident throughout *Berdache*: these songs are lumbering beasts of righteous riffage, building towards each new peak or lull until they land in new sonic territory with a deafening thud—from whence they climb up to the top of yet another new summit.

It's easy (and common) for bands that specialize in complex rock music to lose themselves in turgid technicality, but The Last Deal mostly avoids that trap, especially on standout tracks "Serpico" and "Delay." I don't know that I'm totally sold on the longest tracks, "The Wake" and "Hope," but maybe they just require a few more spins. Which I'll gladly give them.

MATTHEW HALLIDAY

### THE MOUNTAIN GOATS

*Heretic Pride*

(4AD)

★★★★☆



When I say John Darnielle is the best lyricist working in rock music today, I know that's an entirely personal assessment. The way his verses proceed toward their final rhyming syllables, his specificity of settings and characters (in the title song on *Heretic Pride*, he takes time to note "the honey-suckle on the faint breeze" even as a mob tears his body to pieces), his ability to retain a wry, clinical detachment amidst extreme emotional states—it works for me in a way few other songwriters do.

The Mountain Goats release new material at such a reliable pace—roughly an album every 12 or 13 months—that it doesn't matter so much that *Heretic Pride* isn't the emotionally shattering masterpiece its predecessor, 2006's *Get Lonely*, was. Just give me a few songs every year like the self-hating screed "Autoclave," the vivid relationship sketch "How to Embrace a Swamp Creature" or the mysterious "Tianchi Lake," and I'll be more than happy.

PAUL MATWYCHUK

### DON CASH

*||*

(Relish)

★★★★☆



Straight from the T-dot, self-proclaimed "new wave hip-hop original" Don Cash is banging a bevy of crazy party rhymes for your next hipster hoedown. The rapping is pretty irritating, but over the long haul, once you roll past the safe, soft opening tracks (including his hit "Disco Wreck"), it's pretty endearing—much like your nerdy nephew who really was serious on his quest to be the next Rakim (who in fact gets namechecked on Cash's "Super Rock"). "Put You Up on It" drops props on Toronto's suburbs, while "I Want You" is a hilarious ill-conceived attempt at chatting up the ladies. But Cash is a robot, too: he channels his inner Ultravox on "Don't Do Anything Rash," an exercise in high camp, complete with over-the-top background vocals. Cash is not as cool as Tiga nor as rockin' as Justice, but he's having a lot of fun dancing (and rapping) like no one's looking. You'll chuckle, you'll wonder, you'll wince. And then you'll forget it all within five minutes.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

### CITY AND COLOUR

*Bring Me Your Love*

(Dine Alone)

★★★★☆



As much as I love the inherent mellowness of an acoustic album, there's an equally inherent risk that things will get too mellow. And City and Colour's third album, *Bring Me Your Love*, fails to avoid this pitfall. The project's mastermind, Dallas Green (who honed his craft with the post-hardcore band Alexisonfire), has certainly crafted some deeply woeful tunes here, most notably "Waiting..." "Sleeping Sickness," and "The Death of Me." But is woe enough? In a 2006 interview with *The Flying Walrus*, Green quipped, "I just write songs when I'm bummed out and I feel happier." I can't decide if Green is a very happy man, or if he gets bummed out all the freaking time. Ultimately, *Bring Me Your Love* left me feeling neither happy nor sad—just unmoved. If you're a fan of Green and have been resolutely following his career you may find it interesting to watch him sing his way out of his lousy moods. Otherwise, this disc might just bore you too.

CHRIS LEWIS



# HIGHLIGHT • KISS THEIR GRITS



Devil's Music | White Cowbell Oklahoma have no shame. And neither should you, this Saturday. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## White Cowbell Oklahoma • Sat, Mar 2 • Shaw Conference Centre

It's like Gwar meets Nashville Pussy! Canada's finest/sleaziest nontet of Southern-fried misfits comes to the Urban Lounge—and with them, they'll bring all the debauched, drunken musical buffoonery you might expect from a band with "cowbell" in their name. Plus, nine guitars. Nine!

# LIVE MUSIC

## THURSDAY

### ALTERNATIVE

THE FATES VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ guests.

### BLUES & ROOTS

THE DERINA HARVEY BAND ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL. DROWNING OPHELIA BLUE CHAIR CAFE.

### JAZZ

GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR. KRISTIN ROBERTSON HULBERT'S. RUMBLIN DETOLED FOUR ROOMS.

### POP & ROCK

MATT LANDRY URBAN LOUNGE.

### DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ HARRY JAMES THE DOCKS Every Thursday.  
TLOVE BOS NEW CITY LIKWIID LOUNGE w/ Dexter Nebula & Anarchy Adam Every Thursday.  
ELECTRO EDUCATION BACKROOM VODKA BAR w/ DJ Lazebear, trip hop, dub, lounge, electro & IDM mash-up. Every Thursday.  
HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Drum & bass w/ D's Drednought, Phil Cat, MC Enlie, and guests. Every Thursday.  
JUNIOR BROWN RED STAR Every Thursday.

MIA FELLOW BUDDY'S w/ DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy. Every Thursday.  
SALSA STYLE THURSDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Every Thursday.  
SHORTTEE BLACK DOG Every Thursday.  
URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGER SKY LOUNGE w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew. Every Thursday.

## FRIDAY

### ALTERNATIVE

CANCER BATS AVENUE SKATERPARK w/ guests.  
THE FATES EXPRESSIONIST CAFE.  
LEXINGTON WHAT'EVSKI THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ Boombox Disciples, Brothers Grim, DJ Creagan.  
TURN DOWN THE SUCK VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ Inkwell, ForFae, Kinsella, and Cameron Sound.  
WISH STARLITE ROOM w/ M/ Quiet Earth and Portal.

### BLUES & ROOTS

CARRIE HYRWIN STEEP'S TEA LOUNGE.  
CARA MCCLACHLAN THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE.  
THE DERINA HARVEY BAND ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL.  
MIKE SADAVA HULBERT'S.  
SLOWBURN O'MALLEY'S IRISH PUB.  
ROB HEATH FRESH START BAKERY.

### JAZZ

BRETT MILES QUARTET YARBIRD SUITE.  
GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR.

LA PEÑA DE BOMBAY BLUE CHAIR CAFE.  
RANDALL MACDONALD JEFFREY'S CAFE.  
RUBIN DETOLED FOUR ROOMS.

### POP & ROCK

ZOVER40 WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE.  
BOBBY AUSTIN TOUCH OF CLASS.  
CONNORS ROAD URBAN LOUNGE.  
FIVE ON THE SIDE CASINO EDMONTON.  
THE MARY MACHURA BAND THE HILLTOP PUB.  
MISTER LUCKY BELLE & COURT PUB.  
MUSTARD SMILE ON THE ROCKS.  
OUT OF THE BLUE CASINO YELLOWHEAD.  
PARTY ON THE LEAP TEDDY'S PUB w/ Tim Gilbertson, Raptors, Blazing Violets, and DJ Ryan Cole.  
SKID ROW EDMONTON EVENTS CENTRE.

### DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

BITCH BITCH BITCH NEW CITY SUBURBS Every Friday.  
COME STOMP WITH GOMP-SPECIAL EDITION THE TEMPLE.  
CONNECTED FRIDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Local house & international guest DJs. Every Friday.  
DJ CLAY STONHOUSE PUB Every Friday.  
DJ EDDY TONFLASH BUDDY'S Every Friday.  
DJ LOOSE CANNON IRON HORSE Every Friday.  
DJ SHAWNIBOIS ON THE ROCKS Every Friday.  
FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS EMPHATIC BALLROOM Every Friday.  
FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE III Groovy Cury, DJ Fouze. Every Friday.  
FRIDAY NIGHT FREAK OUT NEW CITY LIKWIID LOUNGE w/ Anarchy Adam and G-Whiz. Every Friday.  
FUNKY FRIDAYS BACKROOM VODKA BAR w/ DJ Philite & friends. Every Friday.  
JULIUS DJ SUEDE LOUNGE Every Friday.  
THE MOD CLUB HALO Soul, R&B, Indie, Brit pop, new wave, reggae & classic punk. Dis Blue Jay & Travy D. Every Friday.  
NEON NIGHTS FLUID Every Friday.  
RED FRIDAYS THE DOCKS Military appreciation night. Every Friday.  
ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Friday.  
SEXY FRIDAY 180 DEGREES Reggae and Top 40 w/ Generation IIVEXX & DJ G-Unit. Every Friday.

### ALTERNATIVE

HOT LITTLE ROCKET VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ The Mohawk Lodge and The Rocky Fortune.  
THE JIMMY SWIFT BAND STARLITE ROOM w/ Johnny Feelgood and Mark Charon.  
JOHN SPEAR WUNDERBAR HOFBRÄUHAUS w/ Alicia Glenn.  
SHADOWBLADE THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ Vinyl Spine, Striker, and Slung.

### BLUES & ROOTS

BIG HANK LEONHARDT BLUE CHAIR CAFE w/ the Blues Hearts.  
GORDIE MATTHEWS JEFFREY'S CAFE.

RED STRIPE HULBERT'S w/ Marty Majowicz.  
SLOWBURN O'MALLEY'S IRISH PUB.

### JAZZ

ANDREW GLOVER QUINTET YARBIRD SUITE.  
DENNIS BEGORYAY JULIAN'S PIANO BAR.  
LAUREN BUSHEIM FOUR ROOMS.

### POP & ROCK

ZOVER40 WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE.  
BOBBY AUSTIN TOUCH OF CLASS.  
WHITE COWBELL OKLAHOMA URBAN LOUNGE w/ Connors Road.  
FIVE ON THE SIDE CASINO EDMONTON.  
MISTER LUCKY BELLE & COURT PUB.  
MUSTARD SMILE ON THE ROCKS.  
ORNUMS RENDEZVOUS PUB w/ Amazonia and Attack Addict.  
OUT OF THE BLUE CASINO YELLOWHEAD.

### DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

ATHLETES' NIGHT RATT w/ DJ Kings. Every Saturday.  
BODY & SOUL SATURDAYS BACKROOM VODKA BAR Remo De Janeiro, Waylon Sherington, and weekly guests. Every Saturday.  
DJ CLAY STONHOUSE PUB Every Saturday.  
DJ HOT PHILLY RED STAR Every Saturday.  
DJ JOHNNY SKY DANTÉ'S BISTRO Every Saturday.  
DJ NIC-E SUEDE LOUNGE Every Saturday.  
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HALO House w/ Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, and Nestor Delano. Every Saturday.  
THE MENACE SESSIONS BLACK DOG w/ Miss Mannered Every Saturday.  
OH SNAP! THE TEMPLE Degree & Ali Out DJs. Every Saturday.  
PLANET INDIGO SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Breaks, electro, house, spun by P! residents. Every Saturday.  
RED CARPET SATURDAYS EMPIRE BALLROOM Every Saturday.  
ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Saturday.  
SATURDAYS SUCK NEW CITY w/ Greg Gory and Blue Jay. Every Saturday.  
SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Every Saturday.  
URBAN DANCE PARTY IRON HORSE w/ DJ 420. Every Saturday.

## SUNDAY

### ALTERNATIVE

SCOTT COOK EMPRESS ALE HOUSE w/ The Long Weekends, Shayne Lazarovich, Maurice Jones and Jesse Dee.  
SOULJAH FYAH ON THE ROCKS Every Sunday.

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THE ROCK PUB 8570 ST. ALBERT RD. 459-5571  
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ROSE & CROWN PUB 10235-101 ST. 426-7827  
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10476-80 AVE. 439-7271  
SNEAKY PETE'S 12315-118 AVE. 457-7701  
STARLITE ROOM 10320-102 ST. 428-1089  
ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE 10819-71 AVE. 438-6410  
STEEPS TEA LOUNGE COLLEGE PLAZA, 11116-82 AVE. 980-2386  
STRATHEARN STEAK & PIZZA LOUNGE 9514-87 ST. 465-5478  
THE STUDIO & MEAD HALL 10940-166A ST. THE TAPHOUSE 9020 MCKENNEY AVE. ST. ALBERT. 459-0860  
TEDDY'S PALACE 11361 JASPER AVE. 488-0984  
TOUCH OF CLASS GAMING ROOM CHATEAU LOUIS, 1177 KINGSWAY AVE. 452-7770  
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URBAN LOUNGE 10544 WHYTE AVE. 437-7699  
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WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE 12416-132 AVE. 451-5506  
WINDSOR BAR AND GRILL 11732-81 AVE. 433-7800  
WINSPEAR CENTRE #4 CHURCHILL SQUARE 428-1414  
WUNDERBAR HOFBRÄUHAUS 8120-101 ST. 436-2286  
XWRECKS 10143-50 ST. 466-8069  
YARBIRD SUITE 10203-86 AVE. 432-0428

## DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ RUDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S House, progressive, trip-hop. Every Sunday.  
GOT TO GIVE IT UP BLACK DOG w/ DJ Red Dawn. Every Sunday.  
HOUSE ARREST STOLL'S w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia, and guests. Every Sunday.

## ALTERNATIVE

CRYSTAL CASTLES STARLITE ROOM w/ Health, Degree and Acid Wash.

## DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ RUDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S Every Monday.  
ELECTRIC NONSENSE BLACK DOG w/ Confederacy of Dunces, Dad Rock, DJ Hookah, and Rear Admiral Saunders. Every Monday.  
MUNCH ON METAL MONDAYS NEW CITY LIKWIID LOUNGE Every Monday.

## DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ ARROWCHASER BUDDY'S Every Tuesday  
DJ HOT PHILLY RED STAR Experimental indie rock, hip hop and electro. Every Tuesday  
COOL LATIN TUESDAYS FUNKY BUDDHA Dance Lessons. Every Tuesday

## ALTERNATIVE

CREEP FORWARD NEW CITY Album release w/ Tippy Agogo and Scott Cook

## POP & ROCK

FENIX FOUNDATION URBAN LOUNGE w/ September Stone and Apache Rose

## DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

BEATPARTY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S Every Wednesday.  
DJ HARLEY THE BANK Every Wednesday.  
GLITTER GULCH WEDNESDAYS BLACK DOG w/ DJ Buster Friendly. Every Wednesday.  
GUEST DJ RED STAR Every Wednesday.  
RETROACTIVE RADIO BLACK DOG, WOOF TOP w/ LL Cool Joe. Every Wednesday.  
ROCK OUT WITH YER BOX OUT NEW CITY Every Wednesday.  
WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S w/ Tripswitch, Redbird Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion. Every Wednesday.  
WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS HIP-HOP VELVET UNDERGROUND Every Wednesday

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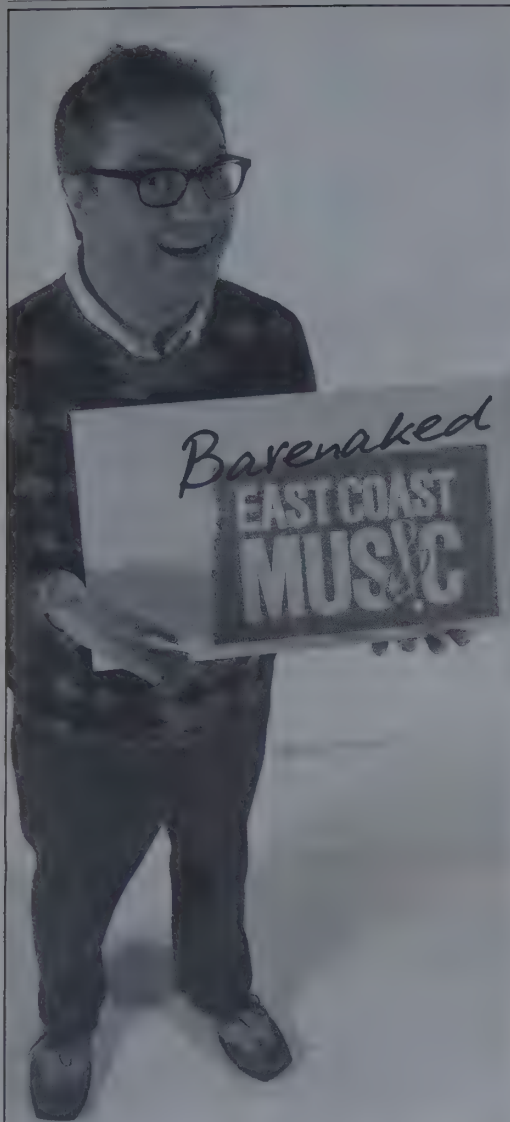
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## CONCERTS

**AL SIMMONS** MAR 2, 7 PM. **THE ARDEN THEATRE** Musical comedy, sight gags and magic tricks from children's entertainer Al Simmons. Tickets: \$14 Children, \$18 Adults at the Arden Box Office or TM.

**THE BLACK PIONEER HERITAGE SINGERS** FEB 29, 7 PM. **MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH** A live reworking concert featuring Junetta Jamerson and The Black Pioneer Heritage Singers. Tickets at TIX.

**BUDDY WASISNAME & THE OTHER FELLERS** MAR 13-16, 7:30 PM. **FESTIVAL PLACE** Tickets: \$32 at the Festival Place Box Office.

**DUST POETS** MAR 8, 7:30 PM. **HORIZON STAGE, SPRUCE GROVE** A five-piece acoustic folk-pop group. Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 students/Seniors III Horizon Stage Box Office, 962-8995.

**THE EDMONTON AND DISTRICT PIPE BAND** MAR 1, 2 PM. **WINSPEAR CENTRE** Under the direction of Pipe Major Dave Trew and Drum Sergeant Craig Weston. Tickets: \$25 III TIX, Winspear Box Office or Scottish Imports.

**EDMONTON METROPOLITAN CHORUS** MAR 2, 2 PM. **STRATHEARN UNITED CHURCH, 8510-95 AVE.** Under the direction of David Garber, performing "Melodious Accord". Featuring Remi Do on piano, Emilie-Anne Neeland on harp, Alvin Lowrey and Nancy Stepan on trumpet, and Alden Lowrey and Ken Read on Trombone. Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$8 Students/Seniors. Info: edmetochorus.ca

**THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS** MAR 1, 7:30 PM. **ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM THEATRE** Presented by the Northern Bluesgrass Circle Music Society. Tickets: \$18 Members, \$20 Non-Members at TIX or the door.

**I TROMBONI** MAR 3, 7:30 PM. **BREWSTERS, OLIVER SQUARE, 11620-104 AVE.** I Tromboni celebrates the launch of Brewsters new Seasonal brew. Info: gunther@brewsters.ca.

**JACK SEMPLE** MAR 1, 7 PM. **BONNIE DOON COMMUNITY HALL** SIRENS presents Jack Semple and his band. Tickets: \$25 at TM, Southside Sound or Myhre's Music. Info: Frank, 438-7460.

**JED & KELLEY** MAR 7, 8 PM. **ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE** Presented by Full Moon Folk Club. Tickets: \$17 advance III TIX or Southside Sound, \$20 III the door.

**JENNIFER BEREZAN AND JULIE WOLF** FEB 29, 8 PM. **ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE** Presented by Full Moon Folk Club. Tickets: \$17 advance at TIX or Southside Sound, \$20 at the door.

**KARAN CASEY BAND** MAR 7, 7:30 PM. **FESTIVAL PLACE** "Chasing the Sun". Tickets: \$30 III the Festival Place Box Office.

**THE KEVIN COOK BAND** MAR 8, 8 PM. **BONNIE DOON COMMUNITY HALL** Presented by Full Moon Folk Club. Tickets: \$12 advance at Blackbyrd and Myhre's, \$15 at the door.

**LUNCH AT ALLEN'S** FEB 28, 7:30 PM. **ARDEN THEATRE** Tickets: \$35 at The Arden Box Office or TM.

**MALINKY MARY** QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL Presented by Northern Lights Folk Club. Tickets: \$18 at Acoustic Music, Myhre's Music or TIX.

**MARIA DUNN** MAR 15, QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL Presented by Northern Lights Folk Club. Tickets: \$18 at Acoustic Music, Myhre's Music or TIX.

**MILL CREEK COLLIERY BAND** MAR 1, 7:30 PM. **MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH** Edmonton's 28-piece, British-style brass band, under principal conductor, Dr. Malcolm Forsyth. Tickets: \$17 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors at TIX.

**MUSIC AT CONVOCAATION HALL** FEB 29, 8 PM. **CONVOCAATION HALL, 1104-A Preserving William Street, Roger Adminal and Alison Storochuk**. Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 for Seniors/Students at TIX.

**MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AT NOON** FEB 29, 12:30-12:50 PM. **MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH** MAR 5 Sylvia Shadick-Taylor and Jeremy Spurgeon. Free admission, bring a bag lunch. Tea and coffee available. Info: 468-4966.

**QUARTETTE** MAR 12, 7:30 PM. **FESTIVAL PLACE**. Canadian country & folk music group. Tickets: \$28 Theatre, \$32 Table at the Festival Place Box Office.

**RUSSELL BRAUN** MAR 7, 8 PM. **CONVOCAATION HALL**.

**ARTS BUILDING, U OF A** Performing Schubert's song-cycle, Winterreise. Twenty-four songs based on Wilhelm Müller's poems. Accompanied by pianist Carolyn Maule. Tickets: \$20, \$15 Seniors, \$5 Students at TIX.

**SARA DAVIS BUECHNER** MAR 2, 7:30 PM. **FESTIVAL PLACE** "The Roaring Twenties in Sight and Sound". Tickets: \$32 cabaret tables, \$30 boxes and \$28 theatre seats at Festival Place Box Office or TM.

**SPRING BOUQUETS** MAR 18, 7 PM. **MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH** Edmonton Columbian Choirs, children and adult choirs. Tickets: \$15 at the door.

**SIERRA LEONE'S REFUGEE ALL STARS** FEB 29, 7:30 PM. **ARDEN THEATRE** Tickets: \$45 at The Arden Box Office or TM.

**YOUNG VOICES 2008** MAR 9, 3 PM. **THE WINSPEAR CENTRE** Senior Orchestras of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra with special guest the Edmonton Youth Choir. Tickets: \$15 Adults and \$10 Students/Seniors (60+) III TIX and at the door.

## OPEN STAGE

### THURSDAY

**180 DEGREES** 9 pm. Hip hop open mic hosted by DJ Dirty Needlz.

**BACKDRAUGHT PUB** 9 pm. Everyone welcome.

**DUSTERS PUB** 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Wonitha Thomas Band.

**EDDIE SHORTS** 9 pm.

**J.R. GRILL & BAR** 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Shameless Plugs. All styles welcome. B.Y.O Instrument, drums & PA provided.

**NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR** 8 pm. Bring your own instruments, poetry, etc.

**NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE** 7 pm. Jam hosted by the Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Association. Info: Ray, 457-9417.

### SATURDAY

**BLUES ON WHYTE** 4-8:30 pm. Afternoon jam.

**THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE** 7-10 pm. Music and poetry open mic.

**COAST TO COAST** 9 pm-2 am. w/ Troy P Wright.

**MORANGO'S TEK CAFE** 7-10 pm. Hosted by Tommy. Info: www.morangostekcafe.com.

**THE NEW TAPHOUSE** 3-7 pm. Molson open stage, hosted by Carmen Cook.

**STRATHEARN PUB** 2ND SAT EVERY MONTH 5-9 pm. Hosted by The Royal Tease, followed by karaoke.

### SUNDAY

**CROWN & ANCHOR PUB** 3 pm. Open jam & auditions to play at C&A.

**DUSTERS PUB** Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band.

**EDDIE SHORTS** 9 pm. Hosted by Rob Taylor, instruments and gear provided.

**HOOLIGANZ PUB** Afternoon jam hosted by Rock'n Roll Kenny.

**HULBERT'S** 7-10 pm. Hosted by Rhea March. Info: www.hulberts.ca.

**NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL** 3-6 pm. Hosted by Willie James & Crawford.

**O'BYRNE'S IRISH PUB** 9 pm. Hosted by Joe Bird.

**THE OVERDRIVE** 1:30-5 pm. "Anything Goes" afternoon acoustic jam hosted by The Shufflehouse.

**TEDDY'S LOUNGE & EATERY** 9:30 pm.

**YESTERDAYS PUB** 2 pm-6 pm. Hosted by the Killer Cowboys.

### MONDAY

**LB'S PUB** 9 pm-12:30 am. Hosted by Shaved Posse: Ken, Fred, Gordie, and Matt.

**PLEASANTVIEW HALL** 7 pm. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy, 474-5270.

**THE IVORY CLUB** 8 pm. Hosted by Marty Vinka.

**ROSE BOWL/ROUGE LOUNGE** 8:30 pm. w/ Mike McDonald and Sherry-Lee Wisor.

## TUESDAY

**THE DRUID** 9 pm. Hosted by Chris Wynters.

**THE TAPHOUSE** 8:30 pm-1 am. Moosehead Jam, hosted by Mark Ammar, Dale Collins, and Noel Mackenzie.

## WEDNESDAY

**CAFE BRITT** 7-9 pm. Hosted by Paul LePage.

**THE ROCK PUB** Acoustic night.

**EDDIE SHORTS** Open jam, all gear provided.

**HOOLIGANZ PUB** 7:30 pm. Hosted by Rock'n Roll Kenny.

**LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE** 8 pm. Hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 429-3626.

**THE NEW TAPHOUSE** 9 pm. Hosted by Danny Floyd.

**PLEASANTVIEW HALL** 7:30 pm. Bluesgrass jam hosted by Northern Bluesgrass Circle Music Society. Info: 434-5997.

**STEEPS TEA LOUNGE** Acoustic open mic every Wed. Last Wed every month Spoken Word open mic. Email Jessie at jlabert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot that week.

## KARAOKE

**B-STREET BAR** Wed-Sun w/ Brad Scott.

**BLIND PIG** Wed & Fri w/ Shelley.

**BUD'S LOUNGE** Fri & Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.

**CHIMMY'S** Thu, Fri, Sat, 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Jimmy Christopher's Pub Tue, 9 pm. w/ Sonia/ProSound.

**CROWN & ANCHOR PUB** Thu, 10:30 pm.

**CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY** Sat & Sun w/ Krista, Liquid Entertainment.

**DOYLE'S PUB** Fri, 10 pm-2 am w/ Cathy, Sat, 10 pm-2 am w/ Evan.

**THE DRUID** Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.

**DUSTERS PUB** Sat, 9 pm.

**D.W.S. PUB & GRILL** Fri, 9-1 am. Hosted by Mr. Entertainment.

**ECCO PUB** Mon, 9 pm-1 am w/ Sonia/ProSound Productions.

**ELEMENT LOUNGE** Wed, 9 pm.

**FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR** Fri, 9 pm-1 am w/ Angel How.

**FOX PUB** Tue, 9 pm.

**FUNKY BUDDHA** Sun, 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.

**GAS PUMP** Tue, 9:30-1:30 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.

**H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE** Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.

**HAWKEYES TOO** Fri, 8 pm w/ Hot Karaoke Productions.

**HILLTOP PUB** Thu, 9:30 pm.

**HOOLIGANZ PUB** Thu & Fri w/ Krista, Liquid Entertainment.

**JUGS PUB** Sat, 9 pm.

**KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) CLUB** Tue & Sun, 6-10 pm. Except 2nd Tue of the month.

**KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH** Tues-Sat, 9 pm-2 am. Sun 9 pm-1 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.

**LB'S PUB** Tue, 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ The Karaoke nuts.

**THE LOCKER ROOM PUB** Mon, 9 pm-1 am w/ Norm.

**METRO BILLIARDS** Tue, 10 pm-2 am. w/ Lounge Lizard Entertainment.

**MOJO'S** Fri, 9:30 pm. w/ Sonia/ProSound Productions.

**NOMA LISA PUB** Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm-2 am. Sat, w/ Cathy.

**NIKITA'S** Pub & Thu, 7 pm-midnight w/ Shelley.

**ON THE ROCKS** Mon, 9:30 pm. Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke w/ Scott Parsons, Mr. Entertainment.

**OVERDRIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB & GRILL** Sat, 9 pm w/ Jennie Joy.

**RAMADA SOUTH** Thu, 8 pm Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Sun, 8 pm-midnight w/ Colin & Ed. Almost Famous.

**RATT TUES**, 9 pm. Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Wed, 8 pm w/ Colin. Almost Famous.

**ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL** Daily, 9 pm.

**ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL** Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm-1:30 am.

**ROUGE LOUNGE** Mon, 8:30 pm. w/ Mike McDonald and Sherry-Lee Wisor.

**SILVER MARTINI** Every 2nd Sat, 9 pm-1 am w/ ProSound Productions.

**TRANSIT HOTEL** Thurs, 7:30-11:30 pm w/ ProSound Productions.

**X-WRECKS LOUNGE** Wed, 7:30-11:30 pm w/ Sonia/ProSound.

## COMING

**FEB 29** - **CANCER BATS** Avenue Skatepark

**FEB 29** - **SHD ROW** Edmonton Event Centre

**MAR 1** - **FABER DRIVE** Shaw Conference Centre

**MAR 2-3** - **CRYSTAL CASTLES** HEALTH Starlite Room

**MAR 6** - **ANDREW DICE** CLAY River Cree Casino

**MAR 10** - **YDAM** Velvet Underground

**MAR 12** - **AVRIL LAVIGNE, BOYS LIKE GIRLS** Rexall Place

**MAR 12** - **STEVE EARLE, ALLISON MOORE** Jubilee Auditorium

**MAR 13** - **LENNY KRAVITZ** Rexall Place

**MAR 13** - **THE WAYBACKS** McDougall United Church

**MAR 14** - **LOU GRAMM** Jett Nightclub

**MAR 14** - **RAINE MAIDA** Starlite Room

**MAR 14** - **ZIMMER'S HOLE** Velvet Underground

**MAR 15** - **ACE FREHLEY** Edmonton Event Centre

**MAR 14-15** - **RAINE MAIDA** Starlite Room

**MAR 18** - **KRAFTY KUTS** Starlite Room

**MAR 18** - **SERJ TANKIAN, FAIR TO MIDLAND** Edmonton Event Centre

**MAR 17** - **ANGELIQUE KIDJO** Winspear Centre

**MAR 19** - **MARTINA MCBRIDE** Rexall Place

**MAR 19** - **THREE GRACES, PAUL POTTS** Winspear Centre

**MAR 20** - **GLASS TIGER** Empire Ballroom

**MAR 21** - **FRIEDED TIPS** Velvet Underground

**MAR 21** - **JESSE ROSE** Fluid Lounge

**MAR 22** - **WONDERLAND** Edmonton Event Centre

**MAR 24** - **HAWKLEY WORKMAN** Winspear Centre

**MAR 25** - **JASON COLLETT, PETER ELKAS** Starlite Room

**MAR 25** - **PAT KELLY, PATRICK PARK** Velvet Underground

**MAR 25** - **RASCAL FLATTS, TAYLOR SWIFT** Rexall Place

**MAR 26** - **DRAGONETTE** Starlite Room

**MAR 26** - **JULIE DOIRON** Velvet Underground

**MAR 27** - **JILL, SUGILL, STODOP** Edmonton Events Centre

**MAR 27** - **JILL BARBER, MATT BARBER** Myer Horowitz

**MAR 27** - **MINUS THE BEAR** Starlite Room

**MAR 28** - **BORN RUFFIANS, PLANTS & ANIMALS** Velvet Underground

**MAR 28** - **DANNY MICHEL** Myer Horowitz

**MAR 28** - **GRINSKUNK, BROKEN NOSE, ALPHA GALATES** Starlite Room

**MAR 28** - **LOS LOBOS, JAMES HUNTER** Jubilee Auditorium

**MAR 28** - **FOO FIGHTERS, AGAINST ME!** HIFI HANDGRENADES Rexall Place

**MAR 31** - **BLACK MOUNTAIN, LADYHAWK** Starlite Room

**APR 1** - **THE CLUT, THE LUKS** Edmonton Event Centre

**APR 1** - **LOS LONELY BOYS** Myer Horowitz

**APR 3** - **CORB LUND & THE HURTIN' ALBERTANS** Rexall Place

**APR 7** - **NEW MODEL ARMY** New City

**APR 9** - **DIMMU BORGIR** Edmonton Event Centre

**APR 14** - **CHODOS, PROTEST THE HERO, FALL OF TROY** Edmonton Event Centre

**APR 15** - **CARIBOLI, FLICK BUTTONS** Starlite Room

**APR 17** - **ALAN JACKSON, BROOKS & DUNN** Rexall Place

**APR 18** - **LYLE LOVETT** Winspear Centre

**APR 20** - **PATTI PAGE** Winspear Centre

**APR 24** - **SEBASTIAN, KAVINSKY** Starlite Room

**APR 30** - **TIGER ARMY** Starlite Room

**MAY 1** - **ERIC ALKAM** Starlite Room

**MAY 2** - **ANNE MURRAY** Jubilee Auditorium

**MAY 3** - **AS I LAY DYING, MISERY SIGNALS, AUGUST BURNS** RED Starlite Room

**MAY 6** - **AMERICAN STEEL** Agricom Northlands Agricom

**MAY 10** - **MEGADETH, IN FLAMES, CHILDREN OF BODOM, JOB FOR A COWBOY, HIGH ON FIRE** Shaw Conference Centre

**MAY 12** - **TOKYO POLICE CLUB** Starlite Room

**MAY 13** - **DESTROYER, DEVON WILLIAMS** Starlite Room

**MAY 16** - **NIGHTWISH, SONIC SYNDICATE** Starlite Room

**MAY 18** - **CLUMSY LOVERS** Velvet Underground

**MAY 19** - **GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS** Winspear Centre

**MAY 20** - **LADYTRON, DATAROCK** Starlite Room

**MAY 24-25** - **NEVERTHELESS, THOUSAND FOOT CRUTCH** Northlands



MOVIE REVIEW • COSTUME DRAMA • BY SCOTT LINGLEY (1600 words)

# Royalty Review

**THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL**  
IS SHORT ON HISTORICAL  
INSIGHT, BUT LONG ON PILLOW-  
LIPPED LEADING LADIES

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL  
Directed by Justin Chadwick. Starring Natalie Portman,  
Scarlett Johansson, Eric Bana. Opens Fri, Feb 29.  
★★★★☆

*The Other Boleyn Girl* is pretty much what it appears to be: a quasi-historical costume melodrama of dubious literary extraction starring a pair of quasi-legit movie starlets who look great together on the marquee. The puffy lips and pale loveliness of Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson's combined female starpower practically attacks you from the poster—which, to be frank, promises a lot more upswept pre-Elizabethan décolletage than it delivers.

Besides universal veneration of their youthful beauty, Portman and Johansson share a propensity for both arthouse quirkiness and prestige trash, so it's impossible to guess ahead of time how the movie will deal with Philippa Gregory's fictionalized account of sisters Anne and Mary Boleyn, never mind how they'll reckon with the English accents they'll be forced to adopt. (As it turns out, they're barely distracting at all, with only the odd "en-chawnt-ed" sticking out here and there.) Will *The Other Boleyn Girl* be a middlebrow success like Johansson's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*, or a costume-epic disaster like Portman's *Goya's Ghosts*?

Gregory's novel riffs on the historical fact that younger sister Mary was the mistress of King Henry VIII (1491-1547) before he severed England's ties with the Vatican and



If I Said You Had A Beautiful Bodice, Would You Hold It Against Me? | Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman primp and preen in *The Other Boleyn Girl*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

established the Church of England to make Anne Boleyn his queen. Anne's daughter Elizabeth I assumed Henry's throne, but some versions have it that Mary illegitimately bore the king's first male heir.

In the movie version, the vain, hot-blooded Henry Tudor (Eric Bana) has the temptation of ripe, precocious Anne (Natalie Portman) thrust under his nose by her scheming uncle (David Morrissey) and spineless

father (Mark Rylance) to serve their own ambitions. Henry nibbles, but it's the fair Mary (Scarlett Johansson) who attracts him and who is called to court when Henry's interest wanes in his barren Spanish queen Catherine of Aragon (Ana Torrent). Sibling rivalry rages as each sister vies for the fatally short-lived attentions of the king at a steep cost to the entire Boleyn family, including stoic mother Elizabeth (Kristin Scott

Thomas).

*The Other Boleyn Girl* starts slow and talky, picks up a bit of steam as Anne plots to supplant Mary in the king's affections, hurtles past the fall-out of her actions, then ends the only way it can according to history. Eventually it achieves a certain entertaining velocity with the accumulation of period stage dressing, facial acting, and condensed 'n' abridged historical details, even if the entertainment

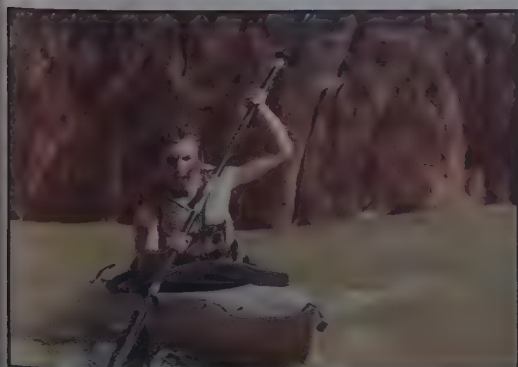
value is at odds with any claim the movie has to artistic seriousness.

Maybe there's just something too self-conscious about the whole affair, from the arty framing and swollen score to the weird post-production veneer of murk and overlit steeliness that at times makes everything look computer-generated.

What's more, director Justin Chadwick seems to be making up for a sluggish opening by glossing over significant plot points like Henry's decision to break with Rome and make himself the head of the church. That these momentous turns of events all get blurred out in dialogue between the scheming and weeping tends to reduce them to mere soap opera, especially when the film gives us no sense of what the world is like outside the king's chambers.

The luminous leading ladies get by pretty well on what they're given to work with—though Portman's gesticulations make her pendant jewelry flutter constantly—but it's the underused backbone of Kristin Scott Thomas and Ana Torrent that conveys a real sense of strength and nobility. Bana makes what he can of his brooding intensity in a role that never gives him a chance to be regal, but merely capricious in matters concerning the royal wang. He is, however, marvelously upholstered.

It's Anne Boleyn who gets shortest shrift in her translation to the screen, though, her contributions to Britain's religious and political destiny the apparent unintended side effect of royal prick-teasing and ambition. But it's probably no surprise to anyone that in a movie like *The Other Boleyn Girl*, teary melodrama trumps history every time.



Supertrip On Tour | Emile Hirsch descends into oblivion the old-fashioned way—via canoe!—in *Into the Wild*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

ROAD TRIP

### INTO THE WILD

CAST | Emile Hirsch, William Hurt, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Hal Holbrook

After *The Indian Runner*, *The Crossing Guard*, and *The Pledge*, Sean Penn finally directs a film that doesn't make you want to put a bullet in your head. This one ends grimly too, with its young hero—real-life nomad Chris McCandless—starving to death in an abandoned, unheated bus deep within the Alaskan wilderness, but what lingers with you after the credits roll is the film's vibrant portrait of the uncorrupted American landscape, and the vivid array of not-so-lonely outcasts who populate it.

DOCUMENTARY

### MY KID COULD PAINT THAT

DIRECTOR | Amir Bar-Lev

This fascinating documentary starts out as a profile of Marla Olmstead, a four-year-old girl whose colourful abstract paintings become a hot commodity on the modern art market. Then it develops into a meditation on the nature of art and creativity, making some pointed comments on America's culture of instant fame along the way. And then it unexpectedly morphs into a compelling mystery when evidence comes to light suggesting Marla's father has had more input into her paintings than was previously believed. And the film is still only halfway over!

FAUX-DOC

### RADIANT CITY

DIRECTORS | Gary Burns and Jim Brown

Like *My Kid Could Paint That*, *Radiant City* examines the blurry line that separates fakery from "authenticity," but instead of the art galleries of the East Coast, Gary Burns and Jim Brown situate their film in the nowheresville of suburban-sprawl Calgary. Their decision to combine pontifications on suburbia from real-life sociologists with faux-documentary scenes starring fictional exurbanites is deeply problematic, but the film still evokes a civic anomie that will undoubtedly resonate with anyone driving back from the video store to their home on the outskirts of Edmonton.

THE PRODUCERS OF *City of God* BRING YOU BACK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE.

**"A REMINDER OF THE MIGHTY POWER OF CINEMA."**  
★★★★ A TRIUMPH. STUNNING.  
—Jeff Craig, *SIXTY SECOND STREET*

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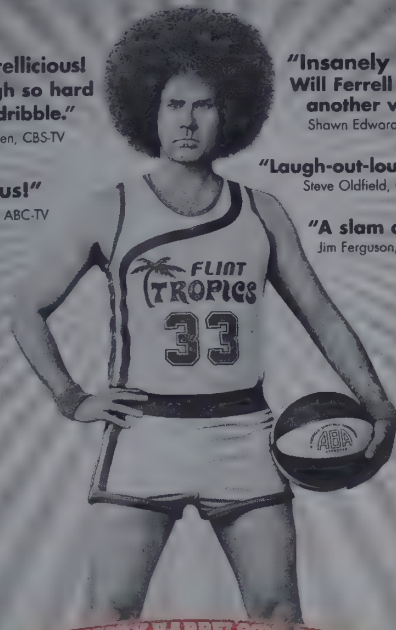
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MOVIE REVIEW • PORCINE ROMANCE • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY 1655 words

# That Pig Nose Is A Good Look On You



Twist And Snout | Christina Ricci, rocking a snarl and pig nose, in *Penelope*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**CHRISTINA RICCI IS THE MOST ADORABLE PIG-FACED GIRL IN THE WORLD IN THE MODERN-DAY FAIRYTALE PENELOPE**

## PENELOPE

Directed by Mark Palansky. Starring Christina Ricci, James McAvoy, Peter Dinklage, Reese Witherspoon. Opens Fri, Feb. 29.  
★ ★ ★ ☆

I have one really big problem with the would-be modern-day fairytale *Penelope*.

in vain. Guys usually leap through the nearest window when they catch sight of her.

Here's the problem. The pig nose is supposed to be horrifying to men. But really, it's just not that awful. In fact, it's kind of endearing. It's like an exaggerated button nose. In fact, I think Ricci, already beautiful, looks even cuter with the pig nose. It's friggin' adorable, actually, when it should be at least mildly repulsive.

That in itself might not be such a problem, but it's indicative of the half-measures *Penelope* takes throughout. It's supposed to be a contemporary fairytale, set in an Americanized London that's basically the present day, but where reporters still tap away on typewriters and people talk on rotary phones. The fairytale set-dressing doesn't hold up very well, though, not extending much beyond a few anachronisms like these. The film's whole "whimsical alternate reality" isn't fleshed-out.

Neither is the plot. The first hour or so sees *Penelope* locked up in her aristocratic parent's enormous estate, where they try to arrange

meetings with potential suitors. One of these is Max (James McAvoy), a disgraced blueblood who lives in a run-down flat playing soulful, melancholy piano tunes. He has a secret, though—he's really in the employ of Lemon, a shady tabloid reporter who wants to dig up the dirt on the Wilhern family and their never-seen pig girl.

After a few (days? weeks?) of conversing with *Penelope* through a one-way mirror so that he can't see her, Max convinces her to reveal herself. He's shocked, but by this point he's also already smitten. After an accident involving Lemon's hidden camera, she runs off, and he goes back to the city. *Penelope* runs to the city too, tired of her mother's meddling matchmaking and her lonely life on the estate. There, she makes real friends for the first time, but her friendships are never well-established enough to be believable. And when Max breaks ties with Lemon and shows up again to declare his love, it all seems rushed, halfway there, not really convincing. (Don't worry if it seems like I've given away the whole movie, by the way; I haven't even touched on the

most important plot points.)

*Penelope* herself also seems a little too worldly to be believable as a girl who's been locked away from the company of others all her life. The film wants to present her as a charming naïf, but also as a modern, empowered woman. It's a balance the script can't quite strike, and it lends the whole film an air of falstity. Then there's the ending, which has a nice message about accepting yourself for what you are, but which I also thought was a bit of a cop-out. (No spoilers!)

*Penelope* still manages to be cute and fun and occasionally funny, thanks mainly to the performances of Ricci, McAvoy, and especially the wonderful Peter Dinklage as the gruff-but-lovable Lemon. It also never crosses the line into sappiness, which is usually almost inevitable with these kinds of films—and *Penelope*'s success in that regard just makes me regret its considerable flaws even more.

It's not quite the revamped fairytale classic its creators were going for, but *Penelope* is still a fun renter for Saturday night with the kids.

ONLINE MOVIES • RAW FOOTAGE | 481 words

# Feed Your Head



**FREEDOM OF CHOICE G.M. LEWISER  
SPIN PROVES THAT IF YOU WANT THE REAL NEWS, YOU NEED TO SEE THE FOOTAGE BEFORE THE NETWORKS EDIT IT**

With the forthcoming *Albertan*, American, and possibly Canadian elections on the horizon, questions of accountability and integrity are paramount in the minds of the electorate. Who can you trust? Can you trust a politician? More worryingly, can you even trust the sources who are reporting on the politicians? Sadly, after viewing the tremendous documentary *Spin* by director Bryan Springer, it's impossible to answer yes to any of these questions.

Springer's film focuses on the 1992 American electoral race and various news stories that in some way fed into or out of that event. Springer spent a year accessing live satellite feeds—raw feeds that are pumped directly to television networks and news channels before being packaged, processed, and regurgitated for your consumption—to create a funny

and frightening look on how information is manipulated, suppressed and influenced by Big Media.

1992 was the year of Clinton I versus Bush I and the emergence of television news (specifically Larry King) as the prime source America turns to for all its information needs. It was also the year that political coverage became profitable: for the first time in history, the advertising revenues from that year's political coverage was greater than what it cost to report it. *Spin* illustrates the implications of this power shift to the corporate few by focusing on stories that were not covered by the various big media outlets precisely because of their overly "sensitive" natures.

Examples include the case of Democratic presidential candidate Larry Agran, who wanted to cut defense spending by 50 per cent and use the surplus to revitalize urban municipalities—but instead was ignored by reporters, and then barred from the debate process because he hadn't received enough exposure from big media.

Network coverage of the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict is also examined (especially the decision to cover the riots from helicopters instead of the streets, thereby eliminating the voice of the dissenters), as well as the 500th anniversary of Co-

lumbus' discovery of the Americas (which included practically no commentary from indigenous peoples) and the political rise of televangelist Pat Robertson and the Christian far right and their demands for "fair and balanced" media coverage.

The footage is terrifying and telling because it presents all the off-

**WATCH SPIN ONLINE AT  
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camera comments, all the preening and maneuvering of the powers that be, who are more concerned about protecting their interests than thorough reporting.

The film is also laugh-out-loud funny: Springer's dry commentary and his razor-sharp editing combine to expose the Orwellian realities of the global media universe. It's also refreshing to see a film free from the aesthetic grandstanding that is becoming more of the norm within the documentary genre.

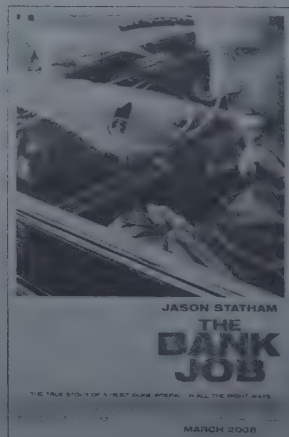
Before you go out to vote on Monday, I urge you to spend an hour watching this truly revolutionary piece of enlightenment—and to take note of the fact that in 2008, network satellite feeds around the world are now scrambled. I wonder why.

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# Pharma Chameleon



**Bartlett Pair** | Anton Yelchin and Robert Downey Jr. compare pharmaceutical preferences in *Charlie Bartlett*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DISPENSES PILLS TO HIS CLASSMATES IN FORGETTABLE CHARLIE BARTLETT**

CHARLIE BARTLETT

Directed by Jon Poll. Starring Anton Yelchin, Robert Downey Jr., Hope Davis. Now playing.

☆☆☆☆

to feel like my time would have been better spent just about anywhere else. On the other hand, the four people in the row behind me (who were much closer in age to the film's 17-year-old protagonist) laughed at most of its would-be gags and—I'm just speculating here—had already forgotten the movie by the time they'd reached the theatre door.

*Charlie Bartlett* certainly begs to be forgotten (or not seen in the first place, if you reside outside the film's target demographic). It follows the

misadventures of the titular rich teen (Anton Yelchin) who, after getting tossed out of every private school in Connecticut (played here by the Toronto area) finds himself relegated to a public high school where he isn't what you'd call instantly popular. A beating and a few visits to the family shrink later, he hits upon a scheme to improve his popularity by offering counseling to his classmates, to whom he's also willing to dole out the psychoactive pharmacopoeia his doctor is all too ready to prescribe him.

With his former bully (Tyler Hilton) as his business partner, Charlie starts winning over the school while drawing the attention of the unvirginal, puffy-lipped daughter (Kat Dennings) of the principal (Robert Downey Jr.), a semi-alcoholic who's too burned out to even raise his voice to his uniformly disrespectful students. Naturally, Charlie's plan for popularity hits a few snags.

*Charlie Bartlett*, the film as well as the character, suffers from the typical teenage malady of wanting to be

liked by everyone. So while Charlie wrong-headedly goes about winning friends by doping them all up, *Charlie Bartlett* strives for lowest common denominator appeal, offering an inoffensive naïf for a protagonist whose assembly of quirks and talents barely resemble a person, and failing to take any of the issues it raises seriously. Violence, drug abuse, promiscuity, and suicide all receive obnoxiously flippant treatment, as if a kid who swallows a bottle of sedatives just needs some bed rest and a few hours of videogaming to overcome his angst and alienation.

Similarly, the high school setting—where Charlie's amateur psychiatric practice in the boys' room goes undetected, despite the presence of long lineups, the unconcealed trade in drugs, and constant smoking—is as slapdash as the script's facile psychologizing. The last-act attempt to inject conflict into the shoddy premise—and the requisite "Hey kids, just be yourselves!" message—is straight from the *Afterschool Special* playbook, shifting the tone from glib

to maudlin with a loud gnashing of gears.

It's a shame that a serviceable cast is wasted en route. Yelchin and Dennings are at least plausible as high school students, even if their efforts go against the movie's grain. Hope Davis, as Charlie's clueless, medicated mom, finds herself without anything funny to say or do. Downey is reliably appealing, but needs to expand his repertoire beyond flaky-at-the-edges washouts whose self-destructive cynicism masks a wounded idealist's heart.

It's even a shame that *Charlie Bartlett*'s concept is wasted—you can imagine how someone with a bit more daring (or a passing familiarity with youth culture) could have fashioned something dark and edgy from the social malaise born of overprivileged, elitist high school society and the soul-deadening drugs kids take (or are given) to make it all tolerable. Fortunately, a movie as forgettable as *Charlie Bartlett* should allow someone else to pick up the idea and run with it in the very near future.

MOVIE REVIEW • RASHOMON THRILLER • BY JAMES HAMILTON | 505 words

## Six Characters In Search Of A Shooter



**21st Century Zapruder** | Forest Whitaker catches an assassination on camera in *Vantage Point*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**VANTAGE POINT SHOWS YOU A PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION AGAIN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN...**

VANTAGE POINT

Directed by Pete Travis. Starring Dennis Quaid, William Hurt, Forest Whitaker, Sigourney Weaver. Now playing.

☆☆☆☆

*Vantage Point* is being billed as a *Rashomon* for our generation, but in reality it's closer to being the autistic, ADHD-ridden second cousin of the TV show *24*. More *Groundhog Day* than *Fail Safe*. Closer to an episode of *Scoby-Doo* than *3 Days of the Condor*.

It starts with an interesting premise—the assassination of the American president told from about six different perspectives—but it falls flat after the first 10 minutes, depending more on flashbacks and gimmicky point-of-view shifts than an actual plot.

The action takes place in Spain during an international summit introducing the President William Hurt's bold new counterterrorism strategy. The network news' talking heads hint that Hurt has had a rough term in office, having weathered an unsuccessful previous assassination attempt and various terrorist attacks around the world. In short order, we're introduced to the film's cast of supporting players: the burnt-out Secret Service agent (Dennis Quaid), out to prove he's still got it; the American tourist (Forest Whitaker), handicapped at the ready; the jaded news director (a brief appearance by Sigourney Weaver) calling the shots from the inside of a news van.

Everyone is ready for what is supposed to be a huge, world-changing announcement from the president... that is, until he takes three in the chest from a sniper's rifle. Mass hysteria ensues as everyone in the crowd scramble for safety. The news cameras scramble to find a good angle on the action. The Secret Service scrambles to protect the injured (if not dead) commander-in-chief while trying to figure out where the bullets came from... and I scramble to care.

The bedlam reaches a fever pitch just as a massive explosion rips through the summit grounds, but before anyone can make any sense

of what has happened (including the audience) the film literally hits reverse and rewinds itself to 23 minutes prior to the attack, picking up from a different character's perspective. It's kind of cool the first time... and much less so when it happens the third and fourth time. Every character is a witness to a different aspect of the assassination, but the audience is left in the dark right up until the end when all the POVs congeal into an unfollowable mishmash of car chases, double crosses and shootouts.

I can't quite put my finger on why this movie left me feeling so offended. Maybe it was the way that whenever a discovery is about to be made the excitement is almost immediately snuffed out by the annoying flashback gimmick, as if the writer were telling us, "Oh, don't worry. We'll tell you later."

Or maybe it's the way the movie capitalizes on and yet dismisses our almost constant fear that violent extremists could throw the world into even more chaos at any moment. I want to believe that there are people out there like *Vantage Point*'s heroes ready to save the day. But if that task takes as much destruction and death in real life as it does in this movie, we're in deep shit.

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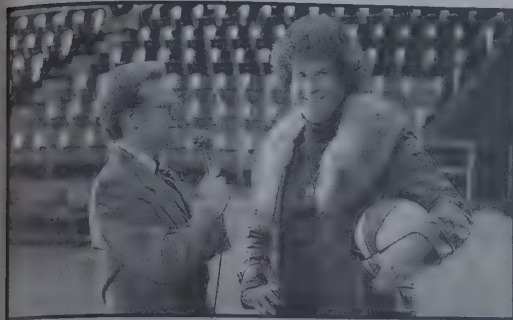
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MOVIE REVIEW • SPORTS COMEDY • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK 1366 words

# The Trouble With Dribbles



He Got Lame | Will Ferrell grows out his whiteboy Afro to play a '70s basketball player in *Semi-Pro*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**WILL FERRELL DOESN'T BRING HIS A-GAME TO SEMI-PRO, BUT HE STILL PUTS ENOUGH POINTS ON THE BOARD**

SEMI-PRO

Directed by Kent Alterman. Starring Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin, Will Arnett. Opens Fri, Feb. 29.

★★★★☆

*Semi-Pro* takes place in 1976 during the last season of the freewheeling American Basketball Association before it was absorbed into the more staid NBA. Will Ferrell plays Jackie Moon, the owner, coach, and power forward of the fictitious (but won-

derfully named) Flint Tropics: told that the top four ABA teams will join the NBA and the rest will be disbanded, Moon makes it his mission to pull his hapless squad out of the basement and finish the season in fourth place.

The makers of *Semi-Pro* aren't much more ambitious in their goals. No one's trying to make a classic comedy here—unlike *Slap Shot*, one of the film's obvious inspirations, *Semi-Pro* isn't really a movie so much as a place where Will Ferrell and his comedy buddies (who this time out include Will Arnett, Andy Richter, Rob Corddry, and Woody

Harrelson) can hang out for 90 minutes or so. They're like a bunch of veteran athletes playing an inconsequential mid-season game without many people in the stands they can pass and shoot like All-Stars, but they're not exactly hustling for the ball.

And I was fine with that. *Semi-Pro*'s amiably sloppy tone actually seems perfectly appropriate to a story about a basketball team so poor that it can't even afford to pay the winner of a \$10,000 halftime free-throw contest. One of my favourite scenes shows Ferrell and a couple of his teammates sitting around a poker table in a smoke-filled rec room with the two sportscasters who cover the Tropics for the local TV station. The scene doesn't really go anywhere, but I like the convivial vibe it establishes, not just the fun of watching guys like Ferrell, Arnett, and Tim Meadows casually riffing on each other, but the way it suggests a certain camaraderie between the athletes and the broadcasters, all of them stuck in a third-rate city and doing what they can not to feel like failures.

I'm sure critics are going to slam Ferrell for playing yet another blow-hard idiot in yet another smart-

dumb sports comedy, as if *Talladega Nights*, *Kicking and Screaming*, and *Blades of Glory* hadn't already exhausted the genre. I'm more for giving towards it: I tend to view Will Ferrell movies as sort of a throw back to the movie comedy series of the '30s and '40s starring the likes of Laurel and Hardy or Abbott and Costello, comics who played essentially the same parts in film after film. Did people back then complain their movies were repetitive? I don't think so. If anything, I think the repetitiveness was kind of a virtue.

It helps that Jackie Moon is one of Ferrell's more appealing characters—unlike his blustery, macho buffoons in *Talladega Nights* and *Blades of Glory*, Moon is more of

an overgrown, easily wounded kid, a one-hit-wonder who used the money from his big song (a surreal bit of sub-Barry White bedroom funk called "Love Me Sexy," whose lyrics, turns out, he stole from his mother) to buy a basketball team and thereby realize his dream of playing in the pros. The only place you see him throwing his weight around is in the DJ booth at the nightclub he owns, where a little sign taped to the glass amusingly warns, "We don't take requests anymore!"

That's too bad, because I have one I'm willing to cut you some slack on *Semi-Pro*, Will Ferrell, but if you do decide to make another sports comedy, could you at least be sure to get John C. Reilly to be in it too?

MOVIE REVIEW • INNER-CITY RIO • BY SCOTT MESSENGER 1520 words

## Dad Education

**CITY OF MEN PROVES FATHER/SON TENSIONS ARE EVEN GREATER WHEN THERE'S A GANG WAR RAGING NEARBY**

CITY OF MEN

Directed by Paulo Morelli. Starring Douglas Silva, Darlan Cunha, Jonathan Haagensen, Rodrigo dos Santos. Opens Fri, Feb. 29.

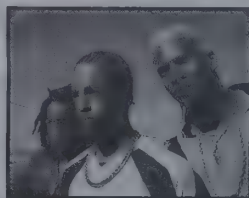
★★★★☆

A few minutes into *City of Men*, Ace (Douglas Silva), an 18-year-old security guard living in one of Rio de Janeiro's crowded slums, awakens to find his wife leaving for work. The room is cramped and flooded with harsh, white sunshine and his toddler son, whimpering as he sucks a pacifier, is looking up at dad expectantly. In return, Ace looks back with cool resentment. It's a subtle but unsettling moment, perfectly setting up an examination of fatherhood that might transcend any cultural gaps... at least it would if it weren't for all the gang warfare.

*City of Men* (produced by Fernando Meirelles, director of 2002's *City of God*) is an action film at heart. Like Meirelles' film, the story hinges on well-armed gangs battling for control of their neighbourhoods. What's nice, though, is that action is peripheral to the way relationships develop, quite literally, in the crossfire. Besides looking at Ace and his

kid, *City of Men* also focuses on the efforts of his best friend Wallace (Darlan Cunha) to locate his own absent father. A wonderful symbiosis arises: Ace is there to help Wallace track down his dad; Wallace is there to convince Ace that a childhood without a father is tough. As a result, the action of *City of Men* becomes vital and interesting because of its potential to sever that bond. And since explaining much more would spoil most of the film's intricate and surprising plot, which does much to bring us into Rio's stunning culture of gangs and brutality, I'll stop there.

Instead, some comparison to *City of God* is in order. The films are intended as companion pieces, but it's probably fair to describe *City of Men* as an attempt to piggyback on Meirelles' previous success. There are too many similarities between them to argue otherwise: gang warfare, Rio, slums, a lot of harshly and deliberately overexposed cinematography, shared lead actors, and so on. Really, it's a shame that *City of Men* wasn't set up to stand more on its own—there's a self-conscious quality to the film as it tries to conform to a genre the makers themselves are obviously working to establish. In the end, the names do reflect how they rank in terms of



Nothing But Blue Skies... | The tropical sky provides an ironic backdrop for the gritty action of *City of Men*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

quality.

And even if you haven't seen *City of God* (if not, do so), *City of Men* may still seem somewhat contrived, as screenwriter Elena Soarez indulges in some serious strongarming of both story and character. For instance, after Wallace finds his father early in the film, Dad too quickly overcomes his reluctance to accept his son, the emotional tension between the two men dissipated by a little one-on-one soccer followed by sporty hugging.

Maybe *City of Men* is just too anxious to make plain the tensions between fathers and sons—and perhaps too eager to resolve them. And yet, this is forgivable. The characters of *City of Men* aspire to so much. And that they do so despite the poverty and violence in their lives is touching and hopeful, even if it isn't quite as sublime as Meirelles might have liked.

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## BEYOND THE BLURBS - BLOGGERS HAVE THEIR SAY



Acting Royalty | Helen Mirren anoints Daniel Day-Lewis with his Best Actor Oscar for *There Will Be Blood*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## THIS WEEK: OSCAR REACTIONS APLENTY!

Aaron Dobbs, *Out of Focus* | "The only part of tonight's show that I care to reflect on is *No Country for Old Men* taking Best Picture from *There Will Be Blood*. How perfect would it have been to see Martin Scorsese hand a Best Director statue to Paul Thomas Anderson? But instead, I get the feeling that P.T. is going to have a career much like Marty's. When the list is compiled for the best films of the first decade of the 21st century, *There Will Be Blood* will be on it—if not at the top, then close to it. Will *No Country*? I doubt it."

Bruce Handy, *Vanity Fair Daily* | "My favorite moment came during the announcement of the Best Actress nominees, when, after a clip of Cate Blanchett roaring away as Queen Elizabeth I, they cut to her in the audience with a smile-grimace on her face that seemed to say, 'Jesus, was I really that over the top?' Classy, unpretentious, nonchalant—it was like she was auditioning for the role of girl George Clooney. My second favorite moment was a clip of Bette Davis announcing a Best Actor winner sometime in the late '40s or early '50s. She had some kind of shiny head-dress that made her look like someone with a tinfoil hat trying to contact Mars. Remem-

ber this next time someone tries to tell you that Hollywood before 1967 was all Audrey Hepburn in Ginchy."

David Edelstein, *The Projectionist* | "Helen Mirren (maybe the most stunning presenter—take that, Jessica Alba!) fluffed a very bad joke in a very bad intro but then ushered in the best moment of the night: Daniel Day-Lewis accepting his Oscar by kneeling before her. Yes, she'd played The Queen, but the gesture went deeper than that: It was the sincere tribute of one brave acting soul to another—and it had a nice symmetry, since at the New York Film Critics Circle dinner, Day-Lewis pre-

sented an award to Javier Bardem, who got down on his knees and genuflected. If that doesn't make your heart leap..."

"Megan," *Hollywood Elsewhere* | "You know, I gotta say, the one award I find it impossible to give a shit about is that somebody playing Edith Piaf won Best Actress. One because I'm tired of showbiz-tragedy biopics; two, because I suspect France makes an Edith Piaf movie every year or two; and three, because, c'mon, who's the audience for this? Gay Francophiles with working 78 rpm turntables? I guess better than the obligatory Alzheimer's movie, but still."



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Nightly 6:55, 8:50, Sat & Sun matinees 1:05, 3:10  
Violence, coarse language

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES  
Nightly 7:05, 9:05, Sat & Sun matinees 1:10, 3:15  
Frightening scenes

FOO'S GOLD  
Nightly 6:50, 8:40, Sat & Sun matinees 1:15, 3:20  
Violence

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Frightening scenes

### LEDUC CINEMAS

4705-50 St. Louis • 966-0778

VANTAGE POINT  
Nightly 6:55, 9:25, matinees Sat & Sun 12:35, 2:35  
Violence

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES  
Nightly 7:00, 9:15, matinees Sat & Sun 1:00, 3:15  
Coarse language

SEMI-PRO  
Nightly 7:05, 9:20, matinees Sat & Sun 1:05, 3:20  
Coarse language

JUMPER  
Nightly 7:10, 9:30, matinees Sat & Sun 1:10, 3:30  
Violence, coarse language

WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX  
3840-56 Wetaskiwin • 352-3772

JUMPER  
Nightly 6:55, 9:10, Sat & Sun matinees 12:35, 3:10  
Violence, coarse language

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES  
Nightly 7:05, 9:20, Sat & Sun matinees 1:05, 3:20  
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Coarse language

VANTAGE POINT  
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Violence

NEW WEST MALL 8  
WEST EDMONTON MALL, PHASE II, DRUMHEAD 2 • 444-1029  
BOX OFFICE HOURS: NIGHTLY 6:15-9:00, OPEN AIRS: SAT/SUN 1:30-5:00

THE WATER HEART: LEGEND OF THE DEEP  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

P.S. I LOVE YOU  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

I AM LEGEND  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

THE GOLDEN COMPASS  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

ENCHANTED  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

BE MOVIE  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

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FOO'S GOLD  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

### 27 DRESSES

Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Coarse language

THE PRIVATE WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIES MOVIE  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Coarse language

THERE WILL BE BLOOD  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, not recommended for young children

THE BUCKET LIST  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Coarse language

JUNO  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Coarse language

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN  
Fri-Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Violence, coarse language

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Coarse language

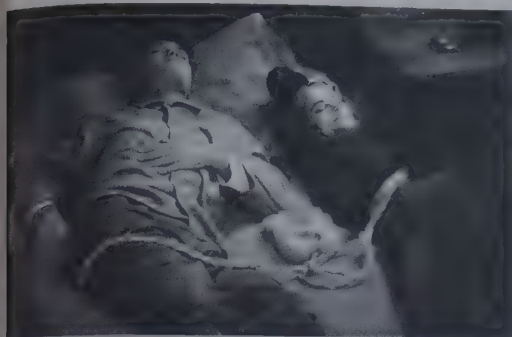
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THE PRIVATE WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIES MOVIE  
Fri-S





Kickin' Back With Cronenberg | Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh insert tubes into their spines in *Existenz*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## MOVIES • OPENING THIS WEEK

### AIRPORT

Burt Lancaster, Dean Martin, Helen Hayes, and George Kennedy star in co-directors George Seaton and Henry Hathaway's seminal 1970 disaster movie about an emergency-filled night at a large Midwestern airport. Based on the novel by Arthur Hailey, *Royal Alberta Museum*: Mar 3 (8pm)

### CITY OF MEN

Douglas Silva, Darlan Cunha, Jonathan Haagensen, and Rodrigo dos Santos star in director Paulo Morelli's drama about two teenaged boys whose friendship is tested in the midst of a drug-fueled gang war within the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. In Portuguese with English subtitles.

### EXISTENZ

Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jude Law, Ian Holm, and Willem Dafoe star in David Cronenberg's 1999 futuristic thriller about a virtual-reality videogame designer who is forced to go on the run with a drone from the marketing department when an anti-technology cult targets her for assassination. *Metro Cinema*: Sun, Mar 2 (4pm)

### IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

A selection of recent films by Irish directors. Featuring: *The Tiger's Tail* (dir: John Boorman; Fri, Feb 29 @ 8pm); *John McGahern: A Private World* (dir: Pat Collins; Sat, Mar 1 @ 9pm); *Irish Short Films* (various directors; Sun, Mar 2 @ 7pm); *Adam & Paul* (dir: Lenny Abrahamson; Sun, Mar 2 @ 9pm). *Metro Cinema*.

### THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson, and Eric Bana star in *Bleak House* director Justin Chadwick's historical costume drama about the rivalry between sisters Anne and Mary Boleyn for the fickle affections of King Henry VIII. Based on the novel by Philippa Gregory.

### PENELOPE

Christina Ricci, James McAvoy, Reese Witherspoon, and Catherine O'Hara star in director Mark Palansky's romantic comedy/fantasy about a wealthy socialite who was born with a pig's nose, the result of a family curse that can only be lifted if she finds true love.

### SEMI-PRO

Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin, and Will Arnett star in director Kent Altman's '70s sports comedy about a hapless ABA team who must climb out of the cellar and into fourth place in order to survive their league's upcoming merger with the NBA.

## VIDEOHOME

James Woods, Deborah Harry, Sonja Smits, and Jack Creley star in David Cronenberg's ahead-of-its-time 1983 sci-fi thriller about the owner of an edgy cable station who loses the ability to tell reality from fantasy when he stumbles across a mysterious TV signal from a pirate porn channel. *Metro Cinema*: Sun, Mar 2 (2pm)

## MOVIES • ALSO PLAYING

### BE KIND REWIND

Director Michel Gondry's flair for spinning magic out of ramshackle production design and obsolete filmmaking techniques finds a perfect outlet in this agreeably sloppy comedy whose unbridled affection for Fats Waller, DIY creativity, and the golden age of VHS is surprisingly contagious.

★★★★☆

### DEFINITELY, MAYBE

An inoffensive romantic comedy starring Ryan Reynolds as a divorced dad and Isla Fisher, Rachel Weisz, and Elizabeth Banks as the three women from his romantic past. These are all terrific comic actors, so why doesn't the movie sparkle more?

★★★☆☆

### FOOL'S GOLD

Not even Donald Sutherland in an ascot, not even the presence of the Sexy Beast himself, Ray Winstone, can redeem this treasure-hunting romantic caper starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey. It's drenched in sunshine, yet somehow still dreary.

★★★☆☆

## I'M NOT THERE

Todd Haynes is less interested in Bob Dylan's music than he is in deconstructing his ever-shifting public persona, from Greenwich Village folkie to frizzy-haired press-baiter to born-again Christian to...uh...19th-century outlaw? Twelve-year-old black kid? Yeah, it's a strange movie, but most of the crazy risks (including having six different actors play "Dylan") pay off.

★★★★☆

## IN BRUGES

Loquacious hitmen with violent tempers are a post-Tarantino cliché, but playwright-turned-writer/director Martin McDonagh revitalizes the archetype with this funny, bloody, beautifully structured dark comedy set in...Belgium? That's right: Belgium

★★★★★

## JUMPER

You'd think Hayden Christensen couldn't possibly find a character more annoying than Anakin Skywalker or Stephen Glass, but think again: as a young man with the ability to teleport instantaneously anywhere on the globe, he's created perhaps the smuggest, douchebaggiest action-movie hero of the decade.

★★★☆☆

## RAMBO

Sylvester Stallone has created perhaps the most graphically violent call for pacifism in movie history. Call him a meathead if you want, but there's a hard-hitting political message in here, hidden amidst all the awesome explosions.

★★★★☆

## THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

Yet another homogenized kiddie fantasy movie à la *The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising* and *The Golden Compass*. Is Hollywood deliberately trying to get kids bored by the very idea of goblins, trolls, and fairies? They're doing an excellent job.

★★★☆☆

## STEP UP 2 THE STREETS

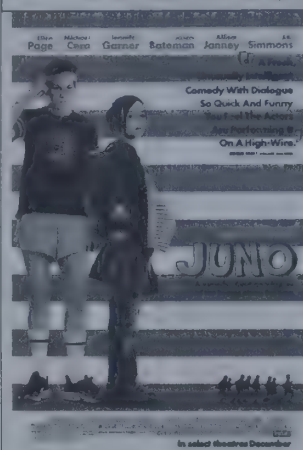
We'll admit it: we've got a soft spot for formulaic-but-fun rich girl/poor boy dance movies like *Save the Last Dance* and the original *Step Up*. But we saw *How She Move* just a couple of weeks ago, and frankly, we've kind of gotten our fix for the year.

★★★★☆

# GARNEAU

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## Juno

4 Academy Award Nominations

Nightly  
7:00 & 9:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday  
Matinees  
2:00 pm

Rated 14A coarse  
language, mature themes

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## PRINCESS

10337 - 82 Ave

## There Will Be Blood

Academy Award Winner

Nightly @ 9:20 pm  
Sat & Sun @ 3:30 pm

Rated PG violence,  
not recommended for young children



## City of Men

Nightly @ 7:00 & 9:10 pm  
Sat & Sun @ 2:00 pm

Rated 14A coarse language,  
sexual content

## I'm Not There

Nightly @ 6:50  
Sat & Sun @ 1:00 pm

Rated 14A  
Visit us online @ [magiclanterntheatres.ca](http://magiclanterntheatres.ca)

# GradeVine

## PERSONALS

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THEATRE PREVIEW • MOTHERS AND LOVERS • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (1,309 words)

# One Nathan Under God

**A CONVERSATION WITH NATHAN CUCKOW ABOUT WRITING *3 DIFFERENT HEAVENS*, STRUGGLING WITH FAITH, AND BITING THE BIG APPLE**

## 3 DIFFERENT HEAVENS

Directed by Trevor Schmidt. Written by Nathan Cuckow. Starring Coralie Cairns and Blair Wensley. Feb 29-Mar 9. The Third Space (11516-103 St.). Tickets available through Northern Light Theatre (478-1586/northernlighttheatre.com) or TIX on the Square (420-1157/tixonthesquare.ca)

If you've ever wanted to see Coralie Cairns or Blair Wensley play 20-year-old gay men, you'd better hurry and see *3 Different Heavens*, because the opportunity is unlikely to arise again.

*3 Different Heavens*, which opens this weekend at Northern Light Theatre, is the latest play by local actor/playwright Nathan Cuckow, but it's the first one he wrote without the intention of appearing in it himself. It's the story of two mothers—a straitlaced Mormon named Joyce (Blair Wensley) and a barhopping good time gal named Susan (Coralie Cairns)—whose sons David and Jonathan fall in love, only to die in a car accident, leaving their mothers behind to deal with their grief and to reconcile their feelings about their homosexuality. As in many of Cuckow's scripts, the characters onstage are fully aware of the audience even as they slip in and out of vari-

ous roles, and much of the humour in *3 Different Heavens* derives from Joyce's awkwardness at playing her son's male lover.

"At this stage in my life," says Cuckow, "I'm not interested in seeing two 20-year-olds come out of the closet and make out." He laughs and adds, "I'm much more interested in seeing two older women make out in the context of two young gay guys."

It should be said that Cuckow's first play as a playwright, the 2002 solo show *STANDupHOMO*, was indeed about a young gay man coming out of the closet—a closet even stood onstage behind him during the entire show. *STANDupHOMO* had a successful Fringe run as well as revivals a few years later in Calgary and Edmonton, but it was very much the work of a beginning playwright, especially in its crude portrait of the relationship between the sissy hero and his abusive, macho father.

He made great strides forward in his two subsequent shows, *3... 2... 1* and *Bash'd*, both written and performed with Chris Craddock, and both of them funny, potent, highly theatrical two-handers examining young male sexuality. *Bash'd*, a "gay rap opera" starring Cuckow and Craddock as proudly limp-wristed rappers Feminem and T-Bag, will be opening Off-Broadway in New York this spring—more about that later.

All during this time, Cuckow was a

driving force behind the award-winning Edmonton independent theatre company Kill Your Television—often, as in their productions of *subUrbia*, *Fool for Love*, and *This Is Our Youth*. Not that Edmonton's bigger theatre companies have made much use of him. Cuckow has appeared in a couple of Stewart Lemoine plays, and he got a Sterling nod for his performance in *Three Days of Rain* for Shadow Theatre, but that's about it. Whether by choice or by necessity, Cuckow has built his career largely outside the system—although he'd probably be too eager to acknowledge his collaborators to ever call himself a self-made success story.

Cuckow describes *3 Different Heavens* as his most personal script, but ironically, it's the show he's had the least involvement with during the rehearsal process. Luckily, that gave him plenty of time to talk with *SEE* about his religious upbringing, his struggle with "liberal bigotry," and the success of *Bash'd*.

**SEE Magazine:** Was *3 Different Heavens* always going to be about the mothers, or did that angle only emerge later on?

**Nathan Cuckow:** It totally did. I always intended to create something that I wouldn't be directly involved in as an actor, and the initial idea was always two gay sons who die, and one mother knew about their relationship

and the other one didn't. But I envisioned it with four actors—the two young men and the two women. My first big breakthrough came when I realized that it would be much more interesting to just do it with the mothers and have them portray the sons. And then when I came up with the idea of having them directly address the audience and explain how they met and became friends, that really took it to the next level.

**SEE:** You take that approach all the time in your plays, where the characters are also performers. Is that a result of your acting background? Or is that a certain self-consciousness on your part as a writer coming out?

**NC:** Well, that's not the structure of *3... 2... 1*—although actually, that was one of the models for this script. I don't know—for this show, what interested me about having that present narrative, that direct address to the audience, was that I could start with the two women already being very good friends. Immediately I could get past the divisions between the two women, the kinds of religious and social attitudes that prevent a lot of people from getting to know each other. And then I could show back up the audience how they got to that point.

**SEE:** You don't see a lot of stories about the coming-out process from the parents' point of view—even though in some ways, it's just as traumatic and dramatically interesting.

“  
MY OLD  
ANTI-RELIGION  
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A DOUBLE STANDARD  
NOT TO PAY RELIGIOUS  
PEOPLE THE SAME  
RESPECT.”

Dan Savage, the sex columnist, often compares it to the grieving process. Even if you're a good, liberal, open-minded parent, it can be a painful experience.

**NC:** It is, but I think parents go through this experience regardless of their children's sexuality. Whenever children start exploring and expressing their authentic identity, that can create conflict. Your parents always project onto you what they want you to do: you'll be a doctor, or you'll go to this school. And when you choose otherwise, it's hard for parents to let go and accept your differences. Growing up, when I stopped going to church, my parents accepted that eventually, but it did create a lot of conflict between us.

**SEE:** And like Joyce in the play, your family is Mormon as well, right?

**NC:** That's right. Although I have a pretty strong religious nonbelief, I have to say. It's been a struggle for me to accept people's religion, just because I see so much harm created by organized religion. There's a lot of negativity and a lot of poison that can come from the segregation of people through religion. I don't feel any different about Mormonism than I do any form of Christianity, or Islam, or Scientology. As far as I'm concerned, it's all about the need to believe there's something bigger than us that takes care of us. We all need meaning in our lives, and religion





These Boots Were Made For Playwriting | 3 Different Heavens creator Nathan Cuckow takes a shine to *The Third Space*. PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

gives us that. But I also think it was created as a means for controlling a populace, so I think that many of the positive things that come from religion—ethics, morality, the emphasis on family that Mormonism especially encourages—are things we can find outside religion as well.

**SEE:** Did your mixed feelings about religion present any obstacles to you when you were writing the Joyce character and portraying her sympathetically?

**NC:** Well, first of all, it was very important to me that this play not be a conversion piece. Joyce never changes her fundamental beliefs, and neither does her son. So her conflict is between her religion, which she believes in with all her heart, but which is telling her that what her son is doing is wrong. I was actually more interested in exploring liberal bigotry—in Susan's preconceived notions about Joyce and her religion. It's hilarious to me how the left is supposed to have this humanistic approach to life, but it's so for us to think that religious people are all a bunch of fucking lunatics. I mean, I love Richard Dawkins [author of the bestselling atheist tract *The God Delusion*], but he can come across as self-righteous and arrogant with his attitude of "I'm right and you're wrong." It's hard: you can't have a rational conversation with a lot of religious people, because they're operating according to faith instead of

logic. My old anti-religion bigotry still sneaks up on me sometimes and I'll get in a drunken debate with someone, and then I'll feel ashamed the next day. I want people to accept me for who I am, so it seems like a double standard not to pay religious people the same respect.

**SEE:** Tell me about Susan, the other mother in the play. Have you known people like her? Are there really moms who tag along with their sons to the gay bar? I mean, given the choice, I think I'd rather have the repressed Christian.

**NC:** That's just it! I think I'd prefer Joyce too. But that's not to say Susan doesn't have her endearing aspects. I don't mind it when you can be friends with your parents, but they should be your parent first. I do know someone whose mother is kind of like Susan—not to that extreme, though. Susan's kind of an extreme case.

**SEE:** I have to admit, one of the things that worried me when I heard about this script was that it does sound like such a standard character-clash comedy. "One's a conservative Christian! The other's a hard-drinking fag hag! Why, they're the original odd couple—just watch the sparks fly!"

**NC:** [Laughs.] But, you know, these differences *do* exist between people. I've certainly met both types. And in the play, what brings them together is their sons, who fit more into the middle ground. And for me,

it's just as much the story of the sons as it is these two women. And for the women, it's about transcending those differences and making a connection. I'm curious to see what audiences take away from the story—this is only the first staging of this story I'm trying to tell, and I find that audiences can teach you a lot about what you've created. I experienced that with *STANDupHOMO*, I experienced it with *3... 2... 1*, and I experienced it with *Bash'd*.

**SEE:** Well, let me pounce on that segue and ask you about *Bash'd*. What are the latest developments with that show, and how are things shaping up for New York?

**NC:** Well, we're going to New York in March to do a couple of readings for investors, and although the dates aren't confirmed, the show will be having a commercial run this summer—the producers want to have the opening coincide with *Pride*. It's a very different process from Canada, where we count on funding from the government to make productions and festivals happen. In the U.S., it's all about rich people and their money. The reason the producers are behind the show in the States is that they see dollar signs. Now, they also believe in the show and they believe in the art and the politics of the show too, which is what makes it such a fantastic partnership, but they see the potential to make money as well.

**SEE:** With that in mind, what ad-

vice would you give other artists in Edmonton? You first did your show in New York last summer, on your own dime, at the New York Fringe. Would you recommend that *everybody* give the New York Fringe a try? Or do you need to have a certain kind of show, with a certain amount of groundwork laid in advance?

**NC:** Well, we didn't make any money last summer. New York was really expensive, and we didn't even get huge audiences. I mean, there are 200 shows at their Fringe in a city that already has Broadway and Off-Broadway. You know? And it's August, a month when it's gross and a lot of the city goes away to other places. But I think it's important to get your work out there in general; I know that starting back in 2004, I really reached a point where I felt I needed people outside of Edmonton to see my work. Getting outside your comfort zone is part of your growth as an artist, and I would recommend that to anybody, whether it's on the Fringe circuit or the High Performance Rodeo in Calgary or wherever. *Bash'd* really is an anomaly—I don't think you can just take a show to the New York Fringe and have this happen to you. Chris and I owe a lot to our agent in New York, who saw one of the Fringe productions, flipped over it, and worked really hard to get a lot of producers to see it.

**SEE:** So it's not like you were quietly doing your little show and word of

mouth was so strong that a bunch of producers just magically showed up.

**NC:** Not at all. And none of them came until our very last performance. Our running gag when Chris and I were performing in New York was to peek through the curtains and say, "I wonder how many Guffmans are out there?" It was a joke, but in the back of your head, it's also a hope and a dream. And it's phenomenal that the show is going to continue to have a life.

**SEE:** When you look back at *STANDupHOMO*, do you think you've evolved as an artist?

**NC:** Well, it's weird—you look back and you start to notice parallels in theme that you weren't even conscious of. The theme of identity and being your true, authentic self is something that comes up in everything I've done. It's in *3 Different Heavens* as well, with the mothers having to examine themselves after their sons' death.

**SEE:** You know, bad things are always happening to gay guys in your plays—they're always dying or they're getting beaten up...

**NC:** Oh, good things happen to them too. Look: bad things happen—the conflict between sexuality and religion is always going to create a lot of bad things. I will say that I'm working on a new play with James Hamilton that won't have anything to do with anything gay. I promise! I absolutely promise!

# “IT'S ABOUT EATING TIGER VEAL ON THE BEACH AFTER GOING BASE-JUMPING AND BEFORE GETTING ON YOUR PRIVATE PLANE WITH A BUNCH OF TAIWANESE HOOKERS.”

—MATTHEW KLOSTER ON THE WORLD OF THE TRILLIONAIRES

THEATRE PREVIEW • DYNAMIC HEDGING! • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK / 737 words

## Mo' Money, Mo' Problems



Trillion Dollar Babies | Trevor Duplessis, Kurt Spenrath, and Ryan Hughes divvy up the world's wealth in *The Trillionaires*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**GREED IS GOOD... AS A TARGET FOR FOUL-MOUTHED SATIRE, ANYWAY, IN KURT SPENRATH'S *THE TRILLIONAIRES***

### THE TRILLIONAIRES

Written by Kurt Spenrath. Starring Trevor Duplessis, Ryan Hughes, Matthew Kloster, Kurt Spenrath. Feb 27-Mar 9. B-Scene Studios (8722-104 St.). Tickets available through TIX on the Square (420-4757/tixonthesquare.ca).

Here's how Wikipedia explains the moneymaking strategy of Long Term Capital Management, the hedge fund that collapsed spectacularly in 1997

after three years of racking up spectacular profits:

"The company had developed complex mathematical models to take advantage of fixed income arbitrage deals. The basic idea was that, over time, the value of long-dated bonds issued a short time apart would tend to become identical. However, the rate at which these bonds approached this price would be different... Thus, by a series of financial transactions (essentially amounting to buying the cheaper 'off-the-run' bond and short selling the more expensive but more

liquid 'on-the-run' bond), it would be possible to make a profit as the difference in the value of the bonds narrowed when a new bond came on the run."

This may be the first Wikipedia entry I've ever seen that left me ten times more confused than I was before I read it. (Uh... what's a bond again?)

Hmmm... maybe I'd be better off consulting Kurt Spenrath, whose new play *The Trillionaires* is a comic riff on the downfall of LTCM and the three men—two of them Nobel Prize

laureates—who invented a plan for making money that wasn't as fool-proof as they thought. And when LTCM went down in flames, they took the economies of several small nations down with them.

"When I found out that these two guys, Myron Scholes and Robert Merton, had won a Nobel Prize in economics for inventing a new and especially sinister form of dynamic hedging, I couldn't believe it," Spenrath says. "I was like, 'You get the Nobel Prize for figuring out how to screw over the stock market?' But the thing is, they made a ton of cash without technically doing anything illegal.

"So it got me thinking about my theory of corporate evil. These guys don't wake up in the morning and go, 'We want to destroy the world.' No—they think, 'I really want more stuff. I don't want just a billion dollars in profit; I want a trillion dollars in profit.' So this show isn't about the intricacies of the stock market; it's more about the personalities behind LTCM, or at least my comic take on them... If *The Three Stooges* were Sam Kinison, Bobcat Goldthwait, and George Carlin, you'd have these guys."

Trevor Duplessis, who plays cut-throat arbitrageur John Meriwether, says Spenrath isn't exaggerating: "This is the most vile, foul-mouthed guy I've ever played," he claims—and this is someone who once starred as Ricky Roma in a Fringe production of David Mamet's *Glenratty Glen Ross*. "The character is so hateful, you might wind up hating the actor who plays him. He's like the mother in *Million Dollar Baby*—I hated that woman so much, I forgot she was just acting a part really well. He's like Ricky Roma who's already a success by the time the play gets going."

"This is Ricky Roma after 10 years of alcoholism and three failed marriages," Spenrath adds. "And a hundred million dollars more in his bank account."

Or maybe the better *Glenratty Glen Ross* comparison would be to Alec Baldwin's brass-balled emissary from Mitch & Murray. *The Trillionaires* is about guys for whom the business of making money is more like an epic, profane, "What's my name? Fuck you, that's my name!" dick-measuring contest.

"It's all about that hyperbolic, more-manly-than-manly corporate attitude," says Matthew Kloster, who plays a (fictional) accountant who smells something fishy in LTCM's bookkeeping. "It's about eating tiger veal on the beach after going base-jumping and before getting on your private plane with a bunch of Taiwanese hookers."

And yet, as vulgar and obnoxiously macho and liberally strewn with swearwords (both real and imaginary) as *The Trillionaires* may be—Spenrath says it's also a tribute to all things, his family, almost all of whom are accountants.

"There's a line in the play," he says, "where Matthew's character goes, 'If you people go out for lobster and oysters Rockefeller and emit a gaseous little burp, you're furious that the kitchen hasn't been investigated twice a day by inspectors. But when I try to step in and keep you guys from destroying the economy, you can't scream loud enough for government to get off your back.'"

"People love big government when they're buying yogurt at the Safeway, but somehow when they're buying and selling stocks that can affect workers' livelihoods, then they're suddenly all 'Laissez-faire! Don't tread on me!'"

## ARTS NEWS • NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE STAGE TO THE GALLERY

### VISUAL ARTS

#### STATIC CLINGS

When Karen Trask's parents brought home their first TV set, she was five years old and more fascinated by the static clouding the screen than in the programs being broadcast. In *Warm Snow*, her new exhibition at SNAP Gallery (which runs until April 12), Trask hopes her black-and-white lithographs—some based on hazy images of TV screens, others consisting of video loops showing literal snow piled up at Pierre Trudeau Airport—will cast a similarly hypnotic spell over gallery patrons. Will today's kids, raised in front of crystal-clear plasma screens, be equally inspired? It seems doubtful, doesn't it?

### SEXUALLY CONFUSED SHOWTUNES

#### TRANNNY GET YOUR GUN?

If you're a male singer, it doesn't matter how talented you are or how much time you've spent polishing your version of "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina"—no director is ever going to cast you as Eva Peron. Similarly, not even the most determined diva is going to talk a producer into letting her play Sweeney Todd or The King of Slime. But the cast members of the musical-theatre revue *Broadway Backwards* (which runs February 28 to March 1 at Jekyll & Hyde Pub) will at least give audiences a taste of what Broadway would be like if such cross-gendered casting ever became commonplace.

### SPEED THEATRE

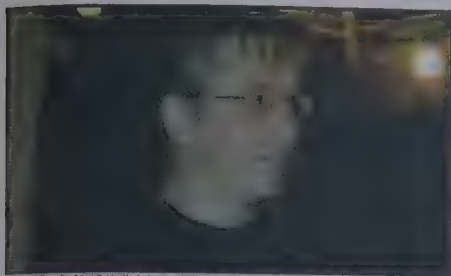
#### ONE DAY, FOUR PLAYS

Oh sure, David Belke and Stewart Lemoine can write plays, but can they do it on command, under an insanely tight deadline? That's the question Catalyst Theatre's *Over the Edge With 4-Play* event will answer this Friday at the Arts Barns, as Belke, Lemoine, Barbara North, and SEE resident know-it-all Paul Matwychuk attempt to bang out a script in three hours... and a team of actors and directors (including Andrea House, Jesse Gervais, Michael Clark, and John Hudson) attempt to whip their scribbles into stageable shape by 9 p.m. Here's an inside scoop for you: Paul is freaking out already.



And We Always Thought Warm Snow Was Just Another Word For Slush... | "Neige Noire V1/2" is one of the images on display as part of the Warm Snow exhibition at SNAP. IMAGE BY KAREN TRASK





Finland Empire | Jari-Pekka Vanhala spreads the gospel of Finnish art to Edmonton. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**New Nature in Nordic Art • Mar 2 (2pm) • Art Gallery of Alberta • free**

"I don't quite get it!" That's the motto, loosely translated into English, of The Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland—but while it's amusingly cheeky, it's also not quite accurate. In fact, the museum and its curator, Jari-Pekka Vanhala, have done a great deal to make modern art exciting and accessible to the mass audience. Vanhala will be in town to deliver a free lecture at the AGA on Sunday afternoon during which the boyish art guru will give us the lowdown on young Finnish artists and how their nature photography is playfully subverting the stereotype of the austere, depressive Scandinavian.

THE SISTERS OF MERCY MEET SWEET JANE LOU REED WILL INDUCT LEONARD COHEN INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME AT A CEREMONY MARCH 10

"Abstracts", show and sale by members of The Society of Artists in Strathcona County. Hours: Sat 10 am-4 pm (except holiday weekends). Thu 5-9 pm. Info: Kaye 467-4481.  
**MANDOLIN BOOKS** 6419-112 ST. U OF A HOSPITAL. 407-7571 Unit APR 13. Eight spots: Fused Ink Silver Ink The Monochrome Field, photography exhibit. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm. Sat-Sun noon-6 pm. Admission free.  
**NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE** 9104-111 AVE. 476-7617 Studio hours. Mon-Fri 10 am-7 pm. Gallery hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Tue & Thu 9:30 am-4 pm & 6-8 pm. Info: www.ninahaggertyart.ca.

**NORTH EDMONTON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP** 10546-115 ST. 482-2685 FEB 29-APR 30. "Autograph" sculpture and drawings by Rob Williams. Daytime Viewing by Appointment: 482-2685.

**OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO** 12714 JASPER AVE. 378-0240 Info: www.outofthefirestudio.ca

**PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY** 10183-112 ST. Group Show. Including new works by James Lahey and Jonathan Forrest. Hours: Tue-Sat 11 am-5:30 pm. Info: www.peterrobertson-gallery.com

**PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY** 12304 JASPER AVE. 455-7479 Group Show. Including new works by Gregory Hardy, Robert Wiseman and Frances Thomas. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: www.peterrobertson-gallery.com

**PICTURE THIS GALLERY** 955 ORIOLE ST. SHERWOOD PARK. 467-3038 Unit Mar 1. Paintings and watercolours by Maureen Baynton, Yuan Chen, John Zacharias, Will Bullas, Bern Hill Brown, Jom Eriksen, Dorel Bush, Roger D. Arnold, Vance Theoret, Murray Phillips, Brent Heygton and Greg Johnson. Info: www.picturethisgallery.com  
**PLANET ZE DESIGN CENTRE** 10055-80 AVE. 428-3499 Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Sing Fernandes, metal sculpture by Linda Maires and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maki and Tim Rehrne.

**PORTAL GALLERY** #300, 9414-91 ST. 702-7522 MAR 1 "Mixed Musings" by Cheryl Muth. Hours: Tue-Fri 12-8 pm, Sat 12-7 pm. Info: www.portalgallery.com

**PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY** 19 PERROW ST. ST. ALBERT. 466-4310 Unit FEB 29 "Windows" by Terry Reynolds.

**ROWLES & CO. LTD. MEZZANINE LEVEL** 1030-103 ST. 426-4035 Info: www.rowles.ca

**SCOTT GALLERY** 10411-12 ST. 488-3619 Unit MAR 1 "Between Water and Stone" by Honi Boyle. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: www.scottgallery.com

**SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY SHERWOOD PARK** 662-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst D. Info: www.horst-sculture.com

**SELFREDGE POTTERY STUDIO** 9844-88 AVE. 439-5296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.selfredgepottery.com

**SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS** 10309-97 ST. 432-9492 Hours: Tue-Sat 12-5 pm. Info: snap@snartists.com

**STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES** 913 ASH ST. SHERWOOD PARK. 476-8189 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. Info: www.strathcona-countymuseum.ca

**STUDIO GALLERY** 11 PERROW ST. ST. ALBERT. 460-5993 Unit Mar 1 "Sun Reel" by Pat Wagensveld.

**TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE** 1221-142 ST. 451-3344 Permanent Exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, Space Place, Discoverland, and DinoBion in the Explore Gallery.

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**WORKS GALLERY** #200, 10275-100 AVE. 426-2222 Hours: Mon-Fri 12-5 pm. Info: www.theworksart.ca  
**ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING** 9860-90 AVE. 433-0388 Amharati Mexican jewelry & art works by Canadian and Mexican artists and artisans. Hours: Tue-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thu-Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat noon-8 pm, Sun-Mon noon-5 pm.  
**ZOCALO** 10826-05 ST. 428-0754 International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. Hours: Mon-Wed & Fri 10-6 pm, Thu 10-9 pm, Sat 9-5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm.

## MUSEUMS

**ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM** 11410 KINGSWAY AVE. 1175 Edmonton burb pilot display. WWW: aia double-wide double-long hanger. Hours: Daily 10 am-4 pm

**CANADIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY CENTRE** LEONIC #1 DISCOVERY WELL, LEONIC. Guided tours, tailored education programs for classes K-12, safety courses and industry training, campgrounds, library and historical archives. Info: 1-866-967-4323 or www.c-pc.org

**CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES** 10440-108 AVE. 496-8700 Over 30,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Two display galleries. Free admission. Hours: Weekdays 8:30 am-4:30 pm

**JOHN WALTER MUSEUM** 10659-91A AVE. 496-8707 Admission free, donations gladly accepted.

**LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM** 11410 KINGSWAY AVE. 496-8707 Admission free, donations gladly accepted.

**MUSEE HERITAGE** 101 ST. ANNE ST. ST. ALBERT. 459-1528 Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm & Sun, 1-5 pm. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2.

**PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA** 8555 ROYAL RD. 427-1510 Preserves the collective memory of Alberta, and contributes to the protection of Albertan identity. Info: www.tpr.gov.ab.ca/paa

**ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM** 10825-102 AVE. 453-9100 Unit Mar 16, Tatu Prayers, 36 pieces of artwork showing the connection between the artists and the wilderness. Permanent exhibits include "Wild Alberta" exploring Alberta's natural habitat; Synchro Gallery of Aboriginal Culture; The Natural History Gallery, examining historic geographical changes in Alberta. Hours: Mon-Sun 9am-5pm. Info: www.royalalbertamuseum.ca

**SELFREDGE POTTERY STUDIO** 9844-88 AVE. 439-5296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: www.selfredgepottery.com

**SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS** 10309-97 ST. 432-9492 Hours: Tue-Sat 12-5 pm. Info: snap@snartists.com

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**PODA DE CAPOEIRA SATURDAYS** 1-2 PM. CAPOEIRA ACADEMY, 10540 JASPER AVE. 790-3500 A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts and music, invented by African slaves. Info: www.capeiraedmonton.com  
**STARS OF HOPE MAR 8, JUBILEE AUDITORIUM** Ballet hip-hop, Ukrainian to tap a recital with over 700 local dance education and performance students in support of the Kids with Cancer Society. Tickets at TM.

## THEATRE

**A GAP IN GENERATIONS** MAR 12-15, 7:30 PM. MAR 16, 7 PM. ROBERT TEELE, ARTIST. CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE 7351-12 AVE. A comedy directed by Gilbert Allan. Tickets \$10 Adults, \$5 Students/Seniors. Info: 479-8481

**BROADWAY BACKWARDS** FEB 28-MAR 1, 7:30 PM. JENNYL ANYHIVE PUB, 10611-100 AVE. A gender bending musical theatre revue. Tickets: \$5 in the door, Info: 443-0752

**THE CLOUDS AND THE MALCONTENT** MAR 12-15, 7:30 PM. THEATRE LAB, FIRST FLOOR, MACLEWEN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS A Greek and Elizabethan play performed by the Maclewen Theatre Arts Students. Tickets at TM.

**FAMOUS PUPPET DEATH SCENES UNTIL MAR 2, TUE-SAT 8 PM. SUN 2 PM. THE ROCKY THEATRE** 10208-124 ST. Old Trout Puppet Workshop presents an array of comic and tragic puppet deaths. Tickets at the Rocky Box Office or TM.

**HOT MIKADO** MAR 7-15, 8 PM. SUN MATINEE, 2 PM. JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE, MACLEWEN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS. 10645-155 ST. Based on Gilbert and Sullivan's. The Mikado. Tickets: \$18, \$12 Students/Seniors in the door, \$14, \$9 Students/Seniors in the door.

**THE MIKADO UNTIL MAR 1, FESTIVAL PLACE, 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK** The Sherwood Musical Association presents Gilbert and Sullivan's opera. Tickets at the Festival Place Box Office or TM. Info: Barbara, 461-4132

**NAMI NAMERSON, THE VIKING WHO LIKED TO NAME THINGS** MAR 7-9, TRANSALTA ARTS BARN. Three friends must decide what to do when a viking sails into their neighborhood and begins re-naming and claiming everything. A play about bullying, tolerance, and the discovery of Canada. For children five years and up. Tickets at the Fringe Theatre Box Office, 490-1910.

**OVER THE EDGE WITH 4 PLAY** FEB 29 9 PM. TRANSALTA ARTS BARN, 10380 84 AVE. Presented by Catalyst Theatre. Tickets: \$40 at TIX.

**RAPID FIRE THEATRE** BEVERLY FRI & SAT, 11 PM. VARSOCNA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE. 448-0695 TheatreSports Fridays, Chimprow Saturdays, \$10 at the door. Info: www.rapidfiretheatre.com

**THREE DIFFERENT HOURS** FEB 29, 7 PM. THE THIRD SPACE, 11516-107 ST. By Nathan Cudkow, Northern Light Theatre presents the play's World Premiere, an examination of religion and family relationships. Tickets at 471-1586 or TIX.

**THREE VIEWINGS** MAR 13-30, VARSOCNA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE. Three monologues in the same funeral parlour expose the personal obsessions of small town citizens. By Jeffrey Hatcher. Tickets at 433-3999.

**THE TRILLIONAIRES** UNTIL MAR 9, B-S-SCENE STUDIOS 8212-104 ST. Presented by Theatre Fringe Generation. A comedy about greed, power, the Nobel Prize and evil corporations, by Karl Spearth. Tickets: \$15 at TIX or at the door, Sun matinees PWYC.

**RAPID FIRE THEATRE** VARSOCNA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE. 448-0695 TheatreSports Fri, 11 pm. Chimprow Sat, 11 pm. \$10 at the door.

**THE COMEDY FACTORY** #408, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD. 469-4999 FEB 28-MAR 1 Ryan Wingfield. Regular showtimes: Tue & Fri 8:30, Sat 8:30 & 10:30 pm. Info: www.thecomedyfactory.com

**THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON ST., WEST EDMONTON MALL** 483-5999 MAR 13-15 Carlos Alazraqui. Hit or Miss Mondays, amateurs compete for audience approval. Tuesdays Alternative Comedy Night.

**THE LAUGH SHOP** LONDONERIE MALL, 66 ST. & 137 AVE. 481-9857 FEB 28-MAR 1 Tommy & Shelby Chong. Tuesday Amateur Night w/ Kevin McGrath. Wednesday Comedy Challenge w/ Kevin McGrath. Info: thelaughshop.ca

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# How Much Information Is "Too Much"?



SAVAGE LOVE: OAN SAVAGE

**DO I TELL MY NEW GIRLFRIEND ABOUT MY SUBMISSIVE SEX SLAVE? DO I TELL MY ROOMIES I'M A TRANSEXUAL?**

At first glance, I'm the guy your mother wants you to marry. Successful, sweet, clean-shaven. Below the surface, I am the guy your mother warned you about: pierced tongue, tattoos, and enough kinks to make a porn star blush.

A couple of months ago, I met a woman who wanted to be a sex slave. Before we started, we talked about our relationship expectations and because of a few deal-breakers (she is older than me, she has kids from a past marriage, our career goals differ), we said that this wasn't going anywhere beyond a temporary fling, albeit a very extreme one. Now she comes to my house a couple of times a week, puts on lingerie, blows me, does my dishes, mas-

sages my feet, blows me, gets tied up/spanked, picks up my dirty laundry, blows me again, and then leaves. Needless to say, I am quite happy with the situation.

Now I've met a great woman who I like and am looking to start a "normal" relationship with (read: still hot kinky sex, just no need for her to crawl on all fours when she enters my house, as fun as that is to watch). She has been hurt before and wants to spend a long time "getting to know each other" before we move toward anything physical. We have both acknowledged that we are interested in pursuing a relationship, just not yet. Given my situation—i.e., all those blowjobs from the submissive—I have no problems waiting as long as girlfriend material wants before we start something physical.

My question is on Dom/sub slave etiquette. Assuming things with this new woman work out, at what point should I break up with my sub? Should I tell her about the other woman? Should I tell her in advance we are ending ("Your next visit will be our last") or should I just ask her to come over and break up then ("We both knew this was only going to last so long")? Do I help her find a

new Dom?

This isn't a regular breakup so I'm not really sure how to do it. My sub loves to serve, so would it be cheating on my next girlfriend if I let her keep doing domestic tasks for me, but nothing sexual? Should I tell my next girlfriend that I had a sex slave for a while?

*Deciding On Method*

That's odd. My mother never warned me about guys with piercings, tattoos, or kinks. My mother did, however, warn me about guys who think a hidden tattoo or a discreet piercing somehow makes them more interesting than they actually are. "Those guys are always douchebags," my mother used to say. Still does. But, hey, my mother isn't the guest expert you need for this particular circumstance.

"The fact that you're having a dominant/submissive relationship with this older woman is immature," says Mistress Matisse, a pro Dom, expert flogger, and prolific blogger ([mistressmatisse.blogspot.com](http://mistressmatisse.blogspot.com)). "It's an intimate sexual relationship, so forget d/s in your handling of this. It's clear that you'd be happy to continue on with them both, at least for a while, so the question is more about polyamory skills

than BDSM etiquette

"I think you should tell both women exactly what's going on, immediately," Matisse continues. "Your girlfriend-to-be wants to get to know you? Well, if she can't handle the fact that you've been having a d/s relationship, you better find that out now. Her response will certainly give you a clue as to how kinky your future sex life with her might be. But full disclosure, pronto, is best. Anyone who has been 'hurt before' is apt to be touchy about discovering perceived dishonesty down the road."

And what about your sub?

"Your submissive is also deserving of your honesty," says Matisse. "She may decide she wants to end your relationship, or she may be willing to continue in a nonsexual arrangement if that's offered to her. If you are extremely lucky, your submissive and your GF-to-be may decide they can coexist in some fashion, at least for now. God knows I've dated men who really needed someone to pick up after them, and I sure as hell wasn't going to do it."

"If you choose to break up with your submissive," or if your potential girlfriend requires it, "make a date with your submissive and respectfully inform her that you are ending the relationship. Wish her well and say goodbye, no last blowjobs. And do not offer to find her a new Dominant—trust me, she'll have no trouble at all finding another Dominant to accept an arrangement like the one you've described."

I am a 20-year-old, bisexual male-to-female transsexual living in Ontario. I am not going to lie: I am not "trans-proud." I don't go around telling everyone I'm an MTF. I just got some new roommates and I haven't told them, worse yet, despite being queer positive, they don't even conceive the fact that I'm trans—which is baffling, and a nice compliment.

So my question is: Do I have to tell them even though I'm not really comfortable with my new roommates? What happens if I don't and they find out? I don't want to create an uneasy atmosphere with the people I just signed a six-month lease with.

My second question is around the same theme. I was dating this girl, we were only going out for about three weeks, and then I told her. She went all crazy on me claiming that I wasn't being honest, and I was misleading her. Her words were offensive; it mutually ended quickly after that moment. Should I have told her that I was trans sooner? Should I expect the same from other lesbians?

*Lost In Toronto*

While I'm generally pro-disclosure, LIT, I can see why a transsexual might not want to disclose to casual acquaintances. By saying, "I'm

SAVAGE cont'd pg. 39

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## A Few Handy Tips



MY MESSY BEDROOM JOSEY VOGELS  
WANT TO GIVE WORLD-CLASS  
HANDJOBS? GREAT! JUST  
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE  
INSTRUCTIONS!

Now that the handjob has been relegated to the realm of pubescent fumbblings, many of us are sadly clueless about what to do with our hands when they're full of our partner's private parts.

How difficult can it be with boys, you ask? All you have to do is rub the thing up and down 'til it shoots, right? Well, in general, guys are pretty easy to handle, so to speak, but there are still some things you can do to give him a handjob he'll remember.

First, get him going even before he gets his pants off with a little crotch massage. Just be sure to let him out before you break something—especially if he's wearing tight pants. If there's a zipper involved, be careful. Once you free his willy, lube it. Unlike us girls, guys (especially circumcised ones) don't self-lubricate, and dry stroking ain't fun.

I find it easier if I'm on top, straddling his hips. This way, if you press your groin up against his, you can pretend you've got your very own penis to play with. The invaluable volume *Sex Tips for Straight Women From a Gay Man* by Dan Anderson

**SAVAGE (cont'd from pg. 38)**

"MTF!" to coworkers, roomies, waitresses, etc., you're forever putting your maleness, which you've left behind, first. And transitioning to a new gender isn't just about having new genitals, getting new breasts put on or old breasts taken off, but about being perceived as, in your case, a woman, first, last, and always. So should you feel obligated to tell the new roomies? No, you shouldn't. If you become close and want to share more of your personal history with them, you can. But they don't need to know it going in.

Not all lesbians are the same person, LIT, sharing one brain, one set of prejudices, one standard when it comes to sex. In fact, when I say, the disposal of sex toys used in previous relationships is concerned. But all lesbians—well, the overwhelming majority—would feel they have a right to know you were born a man before commencing to eat your ersatz pussy. Provided your relationship with this woman hadn't become physical, disclosing at three weeks was prompt enough.

and Maggie Berman (is she a gay man?) suggests that gay men prefer to give handjobs lying on their backs, straddled by the recipients. Personally, I find this gives me less control. Me, I like to have him at my mercy.

Once he is lubed and you're comfy, try something Anderson and Berman call the "Up, Twist, Over and Down" technique. Circle his penis so the back of your hand is against his stomach and your thumb is under the tip. Use the other hand to grab the base to give you more control and keep him fully at attention. Then, slide your hand up, twist, glide over the head and slide back down. Repeat: Up, twist, over down, up, twist... The trick is to find his rhythm and speed. When in doubt, ask questions. If he's too far gone to speak, develop a code: one groan means yes, two means no.

You know what? I'm not even sure you call it a handjob when you're giving it to a woman. "It's a clitoral massage," a girlfriend suggests. Oh, yeah, that rolls right off the tongue. Screw it: let's just call it a handjob for simplicity's sake. Which doesn't mean giving a woman a handjob is simple. There are more parts, and many of them are less obvious. It took me years to get it right, even on myself.

The most common complaint I hear from women is that men go for the goods too quickly. Again, before she's even got her pants off, let your fingers do some crotch-walking. Since there's no worry you'll break something, you can keep her pants on even longer. The greater the buildup, the less work when you get there. Even once you've got her

Dear Readers:

Speaking of Kandiss Crone, which I realize we weren't, lots of Savage Love readers wrote to the Jackson, Mississippi, teeenewz reporter to complain about her idiotic, sex-phobic "sting" of a sex-toy shop, and many were kind enough to CC me. A sampling of Savage Love readers' letters to Crone can be found at [www.thestranger.com/savage/crone](http://www.thestranger.com/savage/crone).

In other sex-toys news, last week the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that Texas's ban on sex toys was unconstitutional. The ruling cited *Lawrence v. Texas*, a gift that just keeps on giving. And since Mississippi is under the Fifth Circuit's jurisdiction, it would seem that sex toys—even three-dimensional, vibrating ones—are now legal in Jackson, Mississippi. Perhaps Kandiss Crone can do a special report for WLBT News.

Download Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [www.thestranger.com/savage](http://www.thestranger.com/savage).  
[mail@savagelove.net](mailto:mail@savagelove.net)

pants off, don't go straight for the goods. Brush along her hipbones and her pubic hair. Run your fingers gingerly across her vagina every so often and you'll have her begging for more. Don't give in yet.

Again, get comfy. When it comes to diddling a woman, it's less about getting a good grip as coming at it from a good angle. If you lie beside her on your back you can come from the same angle she does when she plays by herself.

When she looks as if she'll hump the cat if you don't give her a little more action, kick in with a move I call "The Slide." Curve your finger into a crescent shape and slide it over the clitoral hood, continuing down between the lips to just inside the vagina, curving your finger along the upper inside wall. Without lifting your finger, slide back out again and retrace the same crescent shape. Repeat. If she's not slippery enough to do this, she may not be ready or add some lube.

Most women I know don't like fingers directly on their clitoris. Stimulation through the hood will usually do the trick. Practice by putting your middle fingertip flat against the tip of your nose. Now gently roll the tip of your nose around, keeping your fingertip flat. Wiggle it back and forth once in a while, go back to

rolling Slide up and down the bridge.  
Now look around the bus to see  
how many people are staring at you  
while you're reading this and prac-  
ticing.

Knowing when to increase pressure and speed is the trickiest thing to master. If you change pace at that crucial moment, she'll lose it. You've

got to learn when to stick with it, which is why it's important to get her well on her way before you get to this stage. Less finger-cramping.

Find out what works best for your partner and keep practicing. Proper handling can really put you in touch with each other.



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West 49 Inc. is a leading Canadian multi-banner specialty retailer of primarily branded apparel, footwear, accessories and equipment related to action sports such as skateboarding, snowboarding, surfing, BMX and motocross as well as the music industry. Our aim is to continue to grow our business through exceptional customer service and friendly, fun and knowledgeable employees. West 49 Inc. operates 135 stores in nine provinces under the banners West 49, Off The Wall, Billabong, Amnesia/Arsenic, D-Tox, Duke's Northshore and our online retailer Boardzone.

We are recruiting for:

Assistant Managers  
P/T and F/T Day and Evening Sales Associates

The job fair is being held on:

Thursday March 6th, 2pm - 7pm  
Friday March 7th, 2pm - 7pm  
Saturday March 8th, 10am - 2pm

Bring your resume to the West 49, West Edmonton Mall Store location for an on the spot interview and free swag gift. [www.west49.com](http://www.west49.com)





## 1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

**CARPENTERS/REMODELERS** \$25./hour. Canada's leading home repair/remodeling company is seeking carpenters, remodelers, skilled tradespeople (M/F) in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary. Call 1-800-884-2639 or apply online at [www.handymanconnection.ca](http://www.handymanconnection.ca).

**CENTRAL ALBERTA RIG** moving company is currently hiring experienced winch tractor operators. Competitive wages and group insurance plan available. If you wish to be part of our team, please fax resume complete with references to Western Wheelers at 403-783-6215 or mail to: 6021 - 50A St., Ponoka, AB, T4J 1V1. Operators include a copy of clean, current drivers abstract.

**CHEAPEST RATES.** Switch for free and save your dollars \$10. first month plus activation. Cheap unlimited long distance (most areas). Easy Reconnect 1-877-446-5877.

**CLEAR CRIMINAL RECORDS** with the National Pardon Centre in Calgary. Your peace of mind guaranteed. Remove barriers to employment, travel, more. Free consultations. Call Laura 1-866-242-2411. Apply online: [www.nationalpardon.org](http://www.nationalpardon.org).

**DINOSAUR TRAIL** Golf and Country Club is seeking a Golf Pro/Shop Manager. Reporting to the General Manager as a key member of the management team, the Golf Pro/Shop Manager will provide overview and mark the golf operations and work cooperatively with other departments. Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter in strict confidence to: Dinosaur Trail Golf and Country Club, Box 1511, Drumheller, AB, T0Y 0Y0 or email: [cforeman@dinosaurtrailgolf.com](mailto:cforeman@dinosaurtrailgolf.com).

**EMERALD TRUCKING.** High Prairie, Alberta is currently seeking Class 1 Drivers, Vacuum Truck Operators and Heavy Duty Mechanics. Fax resume to 780-523-5833.

**EMERALD TRUCKING.** High Prairie, Alberta is currently seeking a full-time Safety Supervisor. CRSP preferred. Please fax resume to 780-523-5833.

**GREAT SANDHILLS TERMINAL** located near Leader, Saskatchewan requires a full-time Customer Service Representative and Grain Processor. The successful applicant will be responsible for performing duties related to the receipt, storage, cleaning, blending and shipping of grain. The focus of this position is the day-to-day operations of the terminal and strong customer service skills are absolutely necessary. Candidates must be bondable. A comprehensive salary and benefits package will be provided. Write in writing by March 10/08 to Jim Meyer, General Manager, Great Sandhills Terminal, Box 746, Leader, SK, S0N 1H0. Phone 306-628-4452. Toll free 1-877-478-1999. Fax 306-628-3330. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

**JOURNALISTS.** Graphic Artists, Marketing and more. Alberta's leading newspapers are looking for people like you. Post your resume online. Free. Visit: [www.ama.com/resumes\\_add](http://www.ama.com/resumes_add).

**JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN** wanted SE Saskatchewan. Provincial Parks, lakes, waterfalls, golfing, fishing and more. South East Electric, Box 1238, Carlyle, SK, S0C 0R0. Fax 306-453-2022; [southeastelectric@sktel.net](mailto:southeastelectric@sktel.net).

**JOURNEYPERSON** Electrical with previous supervisory experience required immediately for a well established construction company in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Send resume to: Email: [weitzel@northwest.net](mailto:weitzel@northwest.net). Fax 867-777-2981.

**THE HIGH RIVER Times** has an immediate opening for a permanent full-time Production Manager. Email resumes to: [ch@highrivertimes.com](mailto:ch@highrivertimes.com) or call 403-601-0015.

## 1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

**MANAGING COUPLE** required. 130 site family campground, 20 minutes SE Calgary. Hardworking mature, serious with management experience, references required and own RV for accommodation. Snowbirds welcome. Fax resume 403-995-4145 then call Stacey 403-938-7245.

**NOW HIRING** pump and compressor technicians and shop equipment installers for various Alberta locations. Will train suitable candidates. Send resume to: [jack@pumpsandpressure.com](mailto:jack@pumpsandpressure.com). Fax 403-343-7922.

**PIANO TEACHERS** or adult pianists need to teach Music for Young Children @ a comprehensive keyboard-based program for ages 3 - 10. 1-866-244-3008, [jcausgrove@myc.com](mailto:jcausgrove@myc.com) for training details; [www.myc.com](http://www.myc.com).

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE** required for your area. Earn up to \$100,000/year. Salary, commission, car allowance. Must have direct selling experience. Traveling required. Submit resume to: Personal Manager, The Water Clinic, 850 - 47 St. East, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0X4. Fax 306-242-1223. Email: [mike@waterclinic.com](mailto:mike@waterclinic.com).

**SPRUCE POINT PARK** Association requires marina cooks, marina store staff, marina manager and campground maintenance workers. May 15 - September 15. Send resume: Box 276, Kinuso, AB, T0G 1K0 or email: [sprucepointpark@gmail.com](mailto:sprucepointpark@gmail.com). More info: 780-775-3905. Deadline March 1, 2008.

**SUNDRE AQUAPLEX** requires full-time Aquatic Supervisor. Excellent PR skills, programming experience and flexible work hours. Forward resume, indicating salary expectations, to: [aquaplex@telus.net](mailto:aquaplex@telus.net). Fax 403-638-9370 by Feb. 29.

**TIRE MAN REQUIRED** for Tirecraft in Grande Cache. Phone 780-827-3224 or fax 780-827-4278.

**TRAIL GUIDING OUTFIT** in Banff, Alberta looking for western oriented individuals for trail guides (seasonal/weekend), office/administration (year round), and western retail (seasonal and year round) positions. Staff accommodation available. Contact Lisa or Jill 780-762-4551. Fax 403-762-8130; [wamer@horseback.com](mailto:wamer@horseback.com).

**TRANSPORTATION COMPANY** requires a Heavy Duty Mechanic with good communication skills (own tools necessary) and a Driver with Class 1 or 3 with clean abstract. Experience with tank and vac trucks an asset. Competitive wages and benefit package. Fax resume to: 780-622-2878.

## 1600. Volunteers Wanted

**Break the Code!** Help an adult to read and write. Call Jordan Cerny for Family Literacy. 421-7323. [www.familil.ca](http://www.familil.ca)

**DISTRESS LINE.** YouPhone.com Crisis Chat volunteers get excellent training, career-related skill development, rewarding experience and ensure those in need will have someone there to listen when life hurts. Call the Support Network 723-6648 or [www.thesupportnetwork.com](http://www.thesupportnetwork.com)

**Do you like to drive?** Volunteer to drive frail but walking seniors around Edmonton. Daytime. Mon-Fri. We pay the gas! 732-1221

**Dogs with Wings** is looking for RUPPY RAISERS that they provide a loving home for a 1 year commitment, no previous training needed. Call 944-8010 to see if you have what it takes!

**Ever thought volunteering** was for the dogs? Try volunteering with your pet - call Deanna 413-4662 ([www.petherapyassociation.com](http://www.petherapyassociation.com))

**HELP** to broadcast news nationally. We're blind and print-restricted! Email: [edmon@edmon.ca](mailto:edmon@edmon.ca). Fax: 403-601-0015.

## 1600. Volunteers Wanted

**Ghost Writer.** Help a brain-injured woman, mid 40's, write her life story. Volunteer with good listening skills, writing skills and computer skills wanted. Commitment: 2 hrs/week for 4-6 months or project completion. Old Strathcona area. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

**Heart Campaign:** Kit assemblies, between now and February 2008 we need you! Suit your schedule days/evenings/weekends. If you are available for three (3) or more hours per week, for three or more weeks, call the Heart & Stroke Foundation at 451-4545 for Karen or Laura at 451-4545.

**HOME CARE** volunteers visit isolated neighbors, go for walks, help with errands. Call Campus Health Home Care 496-1300

**Homework Tutors.** Homework help is needed for children & youth in care who require a stable support to ensure their academic success. 1.5 hrs/week, evenings or weekends. Staff support. Various locations. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

**Literacy Reading Tutors** needed to assist adults with disabilities learn basic reading and writing skills. Tutor training, materials, and support provided. 1-to-1 matches, flexible hours, 1-2 hrs/wk. Various city locations. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

**Little Rangers** is helping protect children from sexual abuse, you can too! Please phone 447-1343.

**Make a difference in your community.** ElderCare Edmonton is looking for volunteers to help with daily activities such as crafts, card games and socializing. If you can spare a few hours each week and would like to have fun, call 434-4747 Ext.4

**Mentors for Children & Youth.** Be a friendly mentor to children/youth living in group care. Caring adults needed to share ideas and interests. 2 hours/week, evenings or weekends. Various locations. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

**Participate in research** of brain function at UofA! Right-handed men 30-50. Reimbursement offered. Call 604-0048.

**Seniors Recreation Activity Aides.** Volunteers needed to participate in recreation activities (crafts, scrap booking, bingo, baking, etc.) with disabled female seniors living in new extended care facility in north east Edmonton. On-site support provided. Daytime or evening placements available, 2 hours/week. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

**Take advantage** of this volunteer experience of a lifetime! Become a friend to a NEW Canadian and share a life changing experience. Contact Dulani at 474-8554

**Voices for Unity Fundraiser** requires volunteers. March 15/08, 9-11 pm Citadel. Serena: 534-8664 or [info@pacificwestevent.com](mailto:info@pacificwestevent.com).

**VOLUNTEER TUTORS** needed. Can you read this? Many can't! Become a tutor and share the gift of reading. Call P.A.L.S. at 424-5514 to help change a life through literacy. Training and materials are provided.

**VOLUNTEERS** need Your Leftover Wool and Extra Knitting Needs to knit warm items for newly arrived immigrants. Call Lucia 424-3545, ext. 230.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** To assist new immigrants on a first time shopping trip for essentials. 2-3 hrs. occasional, weekdays. Call Judy 424-3545 ext. 249.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** To help Somali children with homework. Begins in September. 2 hrs/wk. Northside location. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** To teach English to new immigrants. Flexible days/evenings/weekends. 3-4hrs/wk. No exp. req., various locations. Call Judy 424-3545 ext. 249.

## 1600. Volunteers Wanted

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** P.A.L.S. Project Adult Literacy Society. We are looking for Volunteer Tutors to work with adult students in the Literacy Program. Training and materials are provided. Schedules are flexible. For more information, contact P.A.L.S. (780)424-5514.

**Volunteers Needed** to help newcomers with filing tax returns. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249.

**Walking Coaches.** Get fit and have fun walking and socializing with a small group of adults with developmental disabilities, living independently in the community. Walking is preceded by supper/snack together. 5:30 pm-8:30 pm, every second Friday at Westmount Mall. Staff support provided. Ellen at 432-1137, ext. 362.

## 2005. Artist to Artist

**New voice artist** looking for work. Inexpensive and new in business. Call Al to be heard. 451-6065.

**Sports photographer** needed for occasional events, must be available weekdays, and willing to travel. 868-7353.

**The Alberta Student Film Festival** is currently accepting submissions from all Alberta filmmakers. All genres, styles and lengths of student-made film are welcome. Selected films will be screened at the Metro Theatre in March. For more information visit [www.myspace.com/albertastudentfilm](http://www.myspace.com/albertastudentfilm) or email [asff@shaw.ca](mailto:asff@shaw.ca)

## 2010. Musicians Available

**Base Player** available, extensive pro experience, pro gear, backing vocals etc. [tex\\_audio@yahoo.ca](mailto:tex_audio@yahoo.ca)

**Female vocalist** looking to join a band, country, rock or blues, you can reach me at (780) 233-9570 or [chxr\\_cox@hotmail.com](mailto:chxr_cox@hotmail.com)

**Guitarist w/transport** seeks like-minded. For band Black Dahlia Murder, Kataklysm, Anarchy, Slayer 23+ prefer 463-6974.

**Professional pianist-organist** available for weddings, corporate parties or other events, 23 yrs exp. Visit [www.jensen.ca](http://www.jensen.ca) or call 401-1064 to LM.

**Professional singer/guitarist** available. SOCAN registered, plays everything, pro-level, great gear, over 25, serious love. 860-8277.

## 2020. Musicians Wanted

**Base player** needed for an experienced rock trio, please call Adrian @ 642-9725

**BASS PLAYER** seeking country/rock band for fulltime touring or steady weekend work. Contact Brett at 722-9907 or 429-1246.

**Bass player** with back-up vocals wanted! Roots (folk, country, rock, blues) music. Marv @ 240-1501. [www.bassmusic.ca](http://www.bassmusic.ca)

**Bass/keyboard/drummer** wanted for PT country/rock band. Vocals an asset. 443-1153

**Bluegrass 5 string** banjo pickers/guitarists/strummers seeking bluegrass players to start a band in the Edmonton area. [ryan.eavis@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.eavis@gmail.com)

**Country recording artist** seeking country musicians. Lead, bass, drums. Calgary based but will travel to you. Russia 403-815-4404

**Dead Man's Train** requires big long term management. 409-504-5135

**Deathmetal band** looking for dedicated and talented guitarist and bassist. Call Jon at 920-3268.

**DRUMMER WANTED - Singerguitarist** (30) and bass player (27) seeks drummer to complete original 3 piece modern rock project. Influences: Radio head, Muse, Cold play, U2, Hawkley Workman. E-mail: [evan.jones@hotmail.com](mailto:evan.jones@hotmail.com)

## 2020. Musicians Wanted

**SMITH**

# MUSIC

Recording Studio

\$132 / Song  
For a 3 Piece Band

\$50 / Song  
For Vocalist and Single Instrument

## 457-6495

**Established punk metal band** ALL ELSE FAILS seeking new bass player. Must have killer vox (singing + screaming), gear, and be able to tour extensively. Call Barrett @ 221-7413 or Brent @ 902-4551.

**FACE FIRST** looking for drummer, serious inquiries only. Call Johnny 471-4710.

**FORMER MEMBERS OF BAD-SEED.** Looking for experienced 30+ singer/guitar player. 477-3708.

**FREE SET OF STRINGS** with Guitar setup. St. John's Music 10452 Mayfield Road. (780) 452-4810

**GUITARISTS, BASSISTS, Pianists & Drummers,** vocalists needed for good paying teaching jobs. Call 429-2262

**Red Bachmier of The Disciples of Power** has a new power trio and we're called Dead Man's Train and we're looking for shows in Edmonton for the summer. Bass players wanted. 404-5135

**Host Needed** for Saturday Night Sessions Pils Call 466-8069

**JIL ENOCH & MILLENNIUM** Looking for competent graduates of music to play spiritual, hip-hop, blues, rock, R&B, Pop, country, all and metal. Call 438-4355.

**Looking for Lead country guitar player.** Bass player and country drummer. Must be able to travel to Redwater and surrounding area. Getting ready to record an album. Get in on the ground floor. Call Bob @ 780-942-4973

**Musicians, Dancers, Artists** of all types wanted for photo project. Will trade sitting time for photo-head shots. Call Robert 780-916-4662.

**Musicians, Dancers, Artists** of all types wanted for photo project. Will trade sitting time for photo-headshots. Call Robert 780-916-4662.

**NEEDED:** Talented singer and percussionist. E-mail [adammyles@yahoo.com](mailto:adammyles@yahoo.com)

**New voice artist** looking for work. Inexpensive and new in business. Call Al to be heard. 451-6065.

**Punk band "ON THE BRINK"** is looking for full-time bass player. Must be able to tour, 18+, and must be able to sing and play well. Check us out at [www.myspace.com/onthebrinkcrew](http://www.myspace.com/onthebrinkcrew). Serious applicants only. Call Ben at 757-5007 or email [onthebrinkcrew@gmail.com](mailto:onthebrinkcrew@gmail.com)

**Rock cover band** seeks lead guitar player. Pro attitude/gear! For more info, call 998-0567

**Singer Songwriter** seeks band. Infr. S.T.P. A in C etc. for modern orig. hard rock/pop project. No weekend warriors please. Serious only. Call Glen 998-3571

**Looking for a place** to hang out? Looking for a Co-Writer? Want to put music to those lyrics? Want to get that Demo/Album done? Want to learn tools you can use to write better lyrics? Contact: [Rob@GhostWoodStudio](mailto:Rob@GhostWoodStudio) 780-742-4537.

**The Ozzy Ozmonds** cover band seeks bass player. Talent and energy are crucial. Incubus, Rancid, Goldfinger, RHCP. Contact: [Phil@23521Email](mailto:Phil@23521Email): [stoxsting73@gmail.com](mailto:stoxsting73@gmail.com)

## 2020. Musicians Wanted

**Three-piece needs** bass player for every second weekend gig, no jams, also one-nighters. This will be a very tight, experienced trio. Phone James at (780)923-2375.

**Ultimate tribute Priest/Sabbath/Maiden** Serious only apply. Double kick drummer wanted. Know the music. Phil Randy 479-8766

**Ultimate tribute Priest/Sabbath/Maiden.** Serious only apply. Bass and rhythm guitar with leads wanted. Phil 479-8766.

**Vocalist/Songwriter** seeks pro players or band. Hard rock originals, no metal or pop. Ages 25 to 30 ideal. Pros only. Call Glen 998-3571.

**Working cover band** looking for Bass player who can also play keyboard. If you are this double threat call Troy @ 964-2451.

## 2040. Music Instruction

**MILLENNIUM MUSIC SCHOOL.** Teaching Drums, Keys, Guitar, Vocals and Songwriting Skills. **Yes You Can Do It All!** Call Scott. 438-4355

## 2170. Dance

**Learn Ballroom/Country/Latin/Swing** dance. Professional Instruction. 1 to 1 partner req'd. Private Lessons Available. 1995-5149 Wedding Prep

## 2200. Massage Therapy

**Asian Touch Massage** Asian Ladies. Young and Friendly. The Best Relaxation Place in Town. We Welcome All Clients. Contact Ken at 885-1980.

**Chinese traditional body & feet deep tissue massage** by registered massage therapist. 443-6221, 11639-97 St.

**IF YOU'RE TIRED OF INEFFICIENT THERAPY.** Therapeutic Massage. Heidi 1-780-632-3513 (Vegreville) 1-780-868-6139 (Edmonton)

**SWEDISH-CALIFORNIAN** Massage. 20 years experience. Old Strathcona. Also evenings and weekends. Almasta 405-8765

**Transformational Massage.** Tantra Massage, Sexological Bodywork, Health Coach with a 20 year experience licensed therapist. Janet Lee 780-633-6623 [www.secretsofantara.com](http://www.secretsofantara.com)

**2300. Models**

**Models (Nude)** required by serious artist. Please contact Darwin @ 438-1156

## 5620. Office Space

**CABINETRY SHOP** Turnkey. New European Equipment Included. 1300 sq. ft. Shop Close to City Centre. 477-2311.

**UNIQUE OFFICE & SHOP** space, furnished/unfurnished. Newly renovated, security cameras, all wood building. Offices starting at \$192. Shop space (+800 sq feet) \$1100 cement or wooden floor. 477-2311 9AM-5PM

**3125. Computers/Software**

**Karaoke Songs Online.** Over 10,000 Titles. Free Player and Gift Packs. Singles Start at \$0.99. [www.incera.com/soft.com/songs.html](http://www.incera.com/soft.com/songs.html)

## 3190. Musical Instruments

**FIRST AFFORDABLE GUITAR REPAIRS.** Factory trained technician. St. John's Music 10452 Mayfield Road (780) 452-4810

## 3210. Misc. For Sale

**BRAND NEW 2008** top quality hot tub by reputable dealer. \$8000. new. Special \$3200. Call 403-343-3620.

## 3210. Misc. For Sale

**2010 WINTER GAMES** Tour to Vancouver. Packages include flights, stretch limousines and 9 or 16 nights hotel accommodations. For complete details go online to [www.dashours.com](http://www.dashours.com) or call 1-800-608-2010. 24 hours a day.

**42" LCD TVs** Dell \$1199, no money down. Also PCs and laptops. 6, 9 and 24 month payment plans. Credit buildin' (\*must earn \$1500+ / month employed). 1-877-226-0660; [www.nationalcomputerdirect.com](http://www.nationalcomputerdirect.com).

**#4 1 STEEL** buildings, factory direct clearance. Up to 30% off. 25 X 32, 30 X 40, 50 X 100, and 30 X 120. Call now for free shipping. Curvco Steel 1-888-753-6130.

**AFFORDABLE PHONE** Reconnection. Bad credit - no problem! Call Tembo Telecom and ask about our new customer special. Sign up online and save \$20. 1-877-266-6398; [www.tembo.ca](http://www.tembo.ca).

**AT LAST!** An iron filter that works. IronEater! Fully patented Canada/USA. Removes iron, hardness, sulfur, smell, manganese from well water. Since 1957. Phone 1-800-BIG IRON; [www.bignordrilling.com](http://www.bignordrilling.com).

**BED, QUEEN, orthopedic Pillow-top mattress** box-spring. New! Still in plastic. Full warranty. Cost \$1100; sell \$375. KING size, extra-thick, cost \$1550; sell \$650. Will deliver. 403-371-1400.

**BUILDINGS FOR SALE** "Rock Bottom Prices" 25 X 30 new \$5,800. 30 X 40 \$6,900. 30 X 40 \$8,200. 35 X 50 \$11,290. 35 X 70 \$14,500. 40 X 80 \$16,900. Others. Canadian manufacturer since 1980. Pioneer. Steel 1-800-668-5422.

**FUTURE STEEL** Buildings. Durable, dependable, pre-engineered, All-Steel structures. Custom-made to suit your needs and requirements. Factory-direct affordable prices. Call 1-800-668-8653 ext. 170 for free brochure.

**HOT TUB/SPA 2008** - All options, with cover, 2008 model with full warranty. Brand new, still in wrapper. Cost \$8,200. Sacrifice \$4,750. Call 403-663-9767.

**MEMORY FOAM** Orthopedic mattresses. NASA technology. Buy direct from our warehouse and save \$\$\$, Queen \$499. (all sizes available). Call Health Rest today. 1-888-420-7378 (Edmonton).

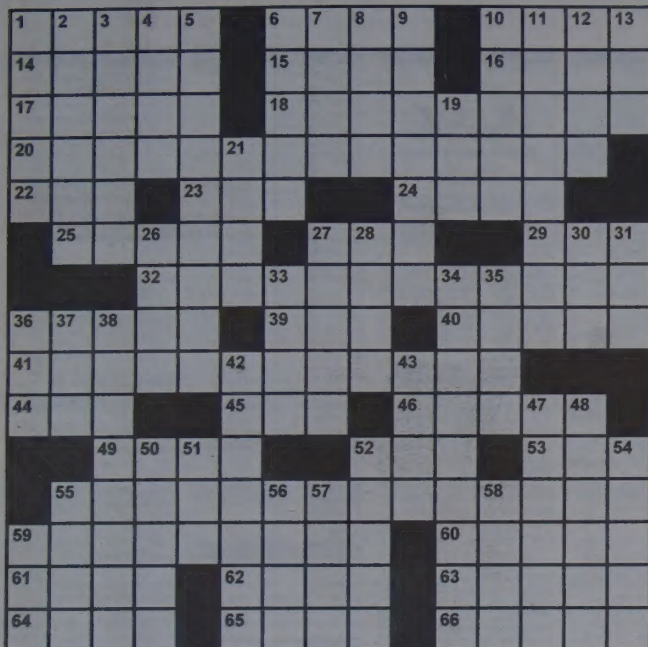
**METAL SIDING/ROOFING.** Best prices! 32" VRI/36" Toughrib 29ga. Galvalume \$.69 sq. ft. Stock and S/O Countries \$.89 sq. ft. 25/30 year warranty. ALTA-WIDE Builders Supplies 1-888-263-8254.

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**POOL TABLE 1" 3** piece slate, 8 ft. Professional Series, Solid wood frame with all accessories. Brand New, still boxed. Cost \$6800. Sell \$1950. 403-266-0979

**SAWMILLS** from only \$3,495. Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Homewood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available; [www.norwoodindustries.com](http://www.norwoodindustries.com). Free information. 1-800-566-6899 ext. 4000T.





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ALFRED KINSEY  
SCH SEEME PETAL  
HAIR CLIVE SUVA  
ADDON GUESS WHEN  
PEEWEE HERMAN  
ETALIA ODESSA  
WALTER GORDON  
IMAN EDINA ANTS  
BOYO RIVAL LURE  
MESS STEW SAT  
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

## PRETTY CHEESY

ANY WAY YOU PREPARE IT

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

### ACROSS

- 1 1970s PBS show hosted by LeVar Burton
- 6 Prom rental
- 10 Drug carrier across the border
- 14 "Leave Britney \_\_\_" (Chris Crocker catchphrase)
- 15 City where Camus's "The Plague" takes place
- 16 Operating system option
- 17 Fall heavily, as into a chair
- 18 Main man
- 20 It holds your logs
- 22 Lithium\_\_\_ battery
- 23 Hallow ending
- 24 "\_\_\_ Nacht in Venedig" (Strauss opera)
- 25 Bright aquarium fish
- 27 Ovine opinion
- 29 Spinners for the party
- 32 Fruity dessert
- 36 "Frida" subject
- 39 Enjoyed endings
- 40 Fabric also called "art silk"
- 41 Modern English hit of 1982
- 44 Rapper who had a role in "Chicago"
- 45 "\_\_\_ You Experienced" (classic rock album)
- 46 Twin surname
- 49 Company that introduced non-stick cookware
- 52 Blowhard's feature
- 53 Bad, in Bogota
- 55 Minimal amount of self-esteem
- 59 3 for 27, 4 for 64, etc.
- 60 Like some Greek columns
- 61 Kid who gets away with a lot
- 62 "Dirty Jobs" host Mike
- 63 Back burner location
- 64 Formal letter opener
- 65 Hoodwink

66 Number of seasons "Arrested Development" lasted

### DOWN

- 1 "Baby Beluga" singer
- 2 "Scrubs" character \_\_\_ Reid
- 3 Recurring role for Damon
- 4 "This round's \_\_\_"
- 5 Philadelphia soup variety
- 6 Lindsay nominated for two "Worst Actress" Razzie Awards in 2007 for two roles in the same movie
- 7 \_\_\_-2 (Camaro model)
- 8 Arcade emulator program
- 9 Single-speed bike feature
- 10 Animated Disney film with George Takei
- 11 Coalescing around, as a cause
- 12 "\_\_\_ Capades" ("South Park" episode)
- 13 PC file extension used with the "run" command
- 19 Indo\_\_\_ Lanka Peace Accord
- 21 Bound
- 26 Like some tales
- 27 Joan's "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" costar
- 28 Banda \_\_\_ (city devastated by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake)
- 30 Glow by \_\_\_ (celebrity women's fragrance)
- 31 Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat\_\_\_
- 33 Dragon's pad
- 34 Doctor who must've been a whiz in med school?
- 35 Art Spiegelman graphic novel
- 36 \_\_\_ long II
- 37 "The Party Faithful" author Sullivan
- 38 Candy in a Ben & Jerry's flavor

42 Hotel that lent its name to a salad

43 Ranger Smith's nemesis

47 It shares the same keys as a 6 major scale

48 Home-grown

50 Guitar neck features

51 \_\_\_ Lingus (Irish airline)

52 Ford flop introduced 50 years ago

54 School for French students

55 Daughter once nicknamed "TomKitten" by the media

56 "When We \_\_\_" (2001 Janet Jackson song)

57 Battleship guess

58 Chris of "Law & Order"

59 "Jericho" network

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Tom the  
Dancing  
Bug

by  
Ruben  
Bolling





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INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



t5m

Angela Zawada (centre) leads a class in hot yoga at Moksha Yoga at 14927 111 avenue. Hot yoga is the same as regular yoga except that the room temperature is about 10 degrees or more hotter than normal. PHOTO BYIAN JACKSON

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FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY LEXIE CROWE | 798 words

# Wiener Pop

AN UNNERVING HOUSEMATE PROVES A LITTLE TOO FORWARD WITH THE TUBE STEAK

For nearly 20 years beginning in the late '80s, Old Strathcona was my home. Of my many fondly oddball memories of the 'hood, some of the most vivid involve a house just off Whyte and a man I came to think of as "Wiener Man."

Like many E-towners, I had a brief fling with Vancouver, but during a short trip home I realized that Edmo was where my heart belonged. In search of new digs, I found a semi-furnished two-room suite in an old house. The owner kindly gave me a deal on the rent. He was sweet but exacting and mysterious, frail yet seemingly ageless. I had become the tenant of Keyser Söze.

The house was vintage 1920s, the décor... something else. My apartment featured a bathtub in one small room, toilet in another, a large kitchen, and a bedroom. The kitchen had blue linoleum, pink and black tiles, and lime-green walls. The bedroom would be best described as a three-

way mashup of Charlotte Perkins Gilman (*The Yellow Wallpaper*), Grace Slick ("White Rabbit"), and Roman Polanski (*Rosemary's Baby*). Although there were three equally spectacularly furnished suites upstairs, the only other resident lived in the apartment adjacent to mine on the main floor. Just the two of us.

Each morning I awoke to the smell of fried wieners. Not bacon, not sausages: wieners. The smell alone was interesting. The fact that the smell traveled up from the basement where there wasn't a kitchen was even more interesting. The thing about fried wiener smell is that it lingers for a really long while, working your olfactory senses overtime day after day. Funny the things you get used to in the place you call home.

I only really saw my neighbour when he came home in the rusted brown van that he parked behind the house. Outside my bedroom window. Every night. For some reason the

door on the driver's side didn't open so he crawled out by way of the door on the passenger's side. Perhaps this should have seemed more curious given that Kaiser had mentioned that my neighbour was "a pilot." Maybe for Oscar Mayer airlines.

Things really got cooking one day in April. A handy man was doing some odd jobs outside the house. We got to chatting. He commented that "I really, really looked like my dad." At the time my dad would've been in his early 70s, retired but active and acquainted with various people around town. After the second comment from the handyman about the uncanny resemblance, I inquired when this man first met my dad. He replied enthusiastically, "Oh, just now. Out front there."

I thought it best to avoid my neighbour, Wiener Man (aka Dad), for the next several weeks, just in case things got a little bit... weird. I began to convince myself that I was overreacting: that it was all in my head, my ears, my nose... until late May when, no, confirmation reached my eyes too. I had returned home from a long shift at a Garneau café, looking forward to dinner and a quiet night at home. Heading up the walk, I looked up to see my neighbour standing completely naked and facing out to the street from a corner of his apartment. I decided that collecting my mail in the shared entryway wasn't the best idea

and scampered around to the back of the house, shakily managing to get my key in the door. I was relieved to be in my apartment until I realized I was in my apartment: all alone, yet in our house... just me and... Dad.

I didn't see much of him over the next few weeks, but really what more was there to see? I guess he was busy with his piloting career, his automotive exercises, his culinary pursuits. And I decided that maybe getting out of the house more often wasn't a bad idea. All families need to give each other a little space. In the summer I moved in with my partner to a mission-style house just off 109 Street.

Fittingly, I would see Wiener Man one more time before leaving the neighbourhood. One clear, crisp Christmas Eve morning, I was up early and headed down to Whyte to collect some bread at the bakery. I began reminiscing about the past year and became all soppy and sentimental. I snapped out of my reverie like a elastic band when I looked across the street and magically there he was: WM hoofing it down the front steps and around the back without shoes on, or anything else. I don't think he saw me, but then I don't think that was ever really the point. The best neighbours share willingly, asking nothing in return.

Maybe I do miss the 'hood... a teeny, weenie bit.



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